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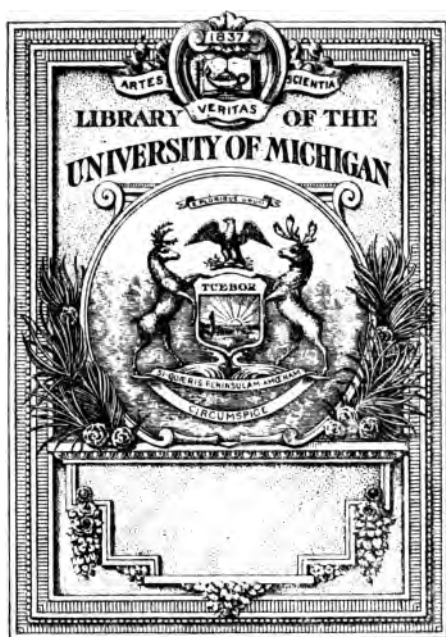
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*From the Smithsonian Institution*

THE  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON

# A FEW FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

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*Porfirio Díaz*

President of the United States of Mexico

*copy of the pamphlet given to me by Mr. J. H. ...*

# A Few Facts About Mexico

*1901*



1901

Published by

The National Commission from the United States of Mexico  
to the

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# A FEW FACTS ABOUT M E X I C O

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S thousands of visitors have kindly shown an interest in the exhibits presented by the Mexican Government at the Pan-American Exposition of Buffalo, it has been deemed appropriate to gather in these short pages the most recent and reliable information concerning that Republic, which, under the progressive administration of President Porfirio Diaz, has aroused the attention of the traveler and of the investor, and has drawn such favorable comments from impartial writers in this country.

It is not intended to give full and detailed information herein, as the space at our disposal forbids it; but, whatever is set forth in this little pamphlet, briefly though it may be, shall be as accurate as possible, and has been compiled from the most reliable and the latest official sources.

Buffalo, September, 1901.

1. Albino R. Nuncio
2. Maximiliano M. Chabert
3. Juan de D. Fleury
4. Carlos Sellerier
5. Rosendo Sandoval
6. Enrique H. Garibay
7. Alberto McDowell
8. Jesus M. Nuncio
9. Lauro Viadas
10. Antonio M. Maya

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The numbers refer to the illustration opposite



Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition

The Mexican Commission



# I

## Historical Synopsis

The early history of Mexico, like that of most countries, comprises much that is fabulous. The true historical starting point may be found in the annals of the Toltecs who inhabited vast areas of land in the northern part of the Continent, but owing to civil commotions emigrated from their country in the year 544. They settled first in one place and then in another, establishing large cities, until in 661 they founded their great kingdom, whose capital was located on the site of the modern City of Tula. That kingdom was overthrown in 1116. Thereupon, the Chichimecas made their appearance and occupied the country abandoned by the Toltecs. Other tribes afterwards came from the north, and established themselves in various portions of the Valley of Mexico.

The Aztecs were the last to reach the valley. After many years of servitude and privations, they finally settled on the islands near the western borders of Lake Texcoco. There, according to an old legend, they found an eagle upon a cactus and holding a snake in its beak, and thereupon established their capital called Tenochtitlan, upon the site of the present City of Mexico. The monarchy of the Aztecs increased in importance and power from the year 1376, when the first king was elected, until it was finally conquered by the Spaniards under Hernan Cortez.

The latter landed in Veracruz on April 21st, 1519. His conquest of the country and the stubborn resistance of the Aztecs are subjects which have been the theme of the historian and the poet, the siege of the City of Mexico being the final and culminating scene of that historical drama. The capital was captured on August 13, 1521, when the conqueror Cortez became governor and captain-general of the country, which was called New Spain.

After being governed by five governors and two councils, the rule of the Spanish viceroys commenced. There were sixty-two viceroys, some of whom were men of great administrative ability, but others permitted many abuses and fostered oppressive measures. Finally, under the leadership of the great patriot, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, independence was proclaimed at the Village of Dolores, State of Guanajuato, on September 16, 1810. Hidalgo assisted by Allende, Aldama, and Abasolo, three Mexican officers, gathered a large number of Indians and peasants, and being joined by two or three regiments of the militia, he captured successively the important cities of Celaya, Guanajuato, Valladolid, and Toluca. As he was not a great military

## A Few Facts About Mexico

leader and had only an undisciplined army, he was not able to take the City of Mexico, even after having obtained a new victory over the Spaniards at Monte de las Cruces. The viceroy thereupon concentrated his army and sent it under the order of General Calleja, who defeated the leader of the Republicans and patriots at Aculco, and then at Puente de Calderon. Hidalgo was finally taken prisoner at Acatita de Bajan on May 21, 1811, and was shot at the City of Chihuahua on July 31, 1811.

The great work of Hidalgo was then carried on by other noble leaders. Among whom Morelos, a parish priest of the State of Michoacan, stands prominent. He defeated the Spanish forces in several encounters and captured various cities. One of his great feats was the defense of the City of Cuautla, where he resisted with 3,000 men the 12,000 Spanish soldiers sent against him. He finally broke the lines of the enemy and succeeded in retreating with the rest of his army. He afterwards captured Orizaba, Tehuacan, Oaxaca, and Acapulco.

Morelos was the first to organize a regular government and to convene a Federal Congress. The latter met at Chilpancingo on September 14, 1812, and issued a declaration of independence on the 6th of the succeeding November. It also framed a provisional constitution and established an executive council of three members. Morelos began to meet reverses in 1813 and was finally captured; he was shot at the town of Ecatepec, near the City of Mexico, on December 22, 1815.

Other patriots continued the fight for freedom, among them we can mention Bravo, Mina, and Guerrero. The latter kept alive the cause of independence until it was successful. The final overthrow of the Spaniards was accomplished by General Iturbide, of the regular army, joining the patriots. The combined and triumphant forces entered the City of Mexico on September 21, 1821. Thereupon a regency of three members was established, of which Iturbide was appointed President. Soon after, under military pressure, he was declared Emperor and on July 21, 1822, he was crowned as such at the Cathedral of the City of Mexico.

But the Mexican patriots could not brook the establishment of an Empire, and Iturbide was obliged to send in his resignation, and left the country in the month of May, 1823. Thinking that he could again resume power, he returned to the Republic, but was arrested and finally shot at Padilla, July 19, 1824. In the same year a Federal Constitution was established, and General Guadalupe Victoria became the first President of the Federation. The Federal Republic lasted until 1835, when General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna became President of a Central Republic under a new constitution. The Liberal and Conservative parties continued to struggle for the supremacy of the administration. From 1822 to 1845 there was a series of military mutinies and civil war predominated during most of that period, while in 1847



Miguel Alemán  
Cap. Gen. de  
América.

Father of the Independence of the United States of Mexico.





## Historical Synopsis

the war with the United States took place, which ended by the signing of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848.

Santa Anna's last administration began on April 1, 1853. In order to obtain means to meet the expenses of his government, he sold to the United States the Mesilla Valley lands. He also governed the country in a most despotic manner. It was then that the Liberal leaders proclaimed the plan of Ayutla, proposing to restore a constitutional government. The Ayutla revolution was successful, and General Juan Alvarez was named President and assumed office on October 4, 1855, but soon after resigned, and General Comonfort became President ad interim.

A Constitutional Congress was convened, and after mature deliberation issued a Constitution on the 5th of February, 1857, which is still in force throughout the Republic. The Constitution having been approved by the people, General Comonfort was elected President and took office on December 11, 1857, but guided by evil advisors and claiming that the Constitution was impracticable, he dissolved the Congress that had just convened and declared himself Dictator. Comonfort was then betrayed by the Church party, left the country, and the administration of the Republic remained in the hands of the great patriot Benito Juarez. Thereupon followed the final and decisive struggle between the Liberal and Conservative parties, styled in Mexican history as "War of Reform". During that great contest, President Juarez issued his celebrated reform laws, which destroyed the political power theretofore exercised by the clergy. The Liberal party was successful in that war, but its opponents did not give up the struggle, and sought in Europe the intervention of foreign powers. England, Spain, and France formed a coalition in 1861 and sent their armies to Mexico. The Spanish and English forces soon withdrew from the country, but the French army pushed towards the City of Mexico, and was signally defeated at Puebla on May 5, 1862. Re-enforcements having arrived, the War of the French Intervention, so called, was carried on in all its fierceness, and the Archduke Maximilian being induced to assume the title of Emperor, finally paid the penalty of his folly by being executed at Queretaro on June 19, 1867. In July of the same year, President Juarez returned triumphant to the City of Mexico, was re-elected President thereafter, and remained as chief executive of the nation up to the time of his death, July 18, 1872. He was succeeded by Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada, as President ad interim, and then as Constitutional President. In 1876 he was a candidate for re-election, but a popular revolutionary movement having been inaugurated at Tuxtepec, it was successfully terminated by the battle of Tecoac, which took place on November 6, 1876; General Diaz thereupon entered the City of Mexico, and in April, 1877, was elected Constitutional President of the Republic. He was succeeded by General Manuel Gonzalez in 1880. Four years afterwards General Porfirio Diaz was re-elected and since then, through continued, and we may say

## **A Few Facts About Mexico**

unanimous re-elections, has remained at the head of the administration. During the several terms he has filled the Presidency, he has firmly established peace, encouraged the material advancement of the country, adopted a sound financial policy and eradicated all causes which could bring about political dissensions and perturbation of peace.



Benito Juárez



## II

# Geographical Information

The Republic of Mexico, or the Mexican United States, as the country is officially styled, is situated between  $14^{\circ} 30' 42''$  and  $32^{\circ} 32' 42''$  north latitude, and between  $86^{\circ} 46' 8''$  and  $107^{\circ} 7' 31''$  west longitude of the meridian of Greenwich. It is bounded on the north by the United States of America; on the east by the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea; on the south by the Pacific Ocean, Guatemala, and Belize; and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. The boundary line with the United States was established by the treaties of February 2, 1848, and December 30, 1853, and begins at the mouth of the Rio Grande and terminates in a point on the Pacific Ocean, distant one marine league due south of the southernmost point of the Bay of San Diego; the whole extent of this boundary line being 1,833 miles. The boundary line with Guatemala was fixed by the treaties of September 27, 1882, and April 1, 1895, and its length is considered to be 642 miles. The boundary line between Mexico and Belize was defined by a treaty signed July 8, 1893, runs from the mouth of the Strait of Bocalarchica and terminates at the boundary between Mexico and Guatemala.

The total area of the Mexican Republic is 767,326 English square miles, which includes 1,471 square miles of islands near the coasts of the Republic.

The widest portion of Mexico is its northern extremity and the narrowest point is the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, which is about 100 miles from the Pacific to the Atlantic Oceans. The eastern coast of the Republic, washed by the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, comprises about 1,737 miles, whilst its western coast along the Pacific Ocean is about 4,574 miles in length.

The Republic presents a succession of terraces rising from the eastern and western coasts which culminate in a great central plateau running in a northerly and southeasterly direction, and having elevations which vary from 4000 to 8000 feet above the level of the sea. There are two great ranges which cross the Republic, nearly parallel to the coast along the Gulf of Mexico and along the Pacific Ocean, and which have various branches. Beside these there are other mountain ranges, the most noticeable of which is that of Anahuac, which surrounds the Valley of Mexico and of Puebla. There are several volcanoes, among which we may mention the well known Popocatepetl and Ixtachihuatl in the Valley of Mexico, being 17,450 and 16,076 feet, respectively, in height; the Orizaba, 17,362 feet; the Toluca, 15,019 feet; the Colima, 14,363 feet; and the Ajuto, 13,628 feet.

## A Few Facts About Mexico

The Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf of California, and the Gulf of Tehuantepec, the first mentioned being on the Eastern coast, and the other two along the Western coast, are considered among the largest in both Continents.

The principal bays are those of Guaymas, Santa Barbara, Topolobampo, La Paz, and Muleje, in the Gulf of Lower California; Amejias, Magdalena, San Quintin, and San Blas, on the Pacific Ocean.

The principal islands near the coast of Mexico are: El Carmen, a very large one in the Gulf of Mexico; San Juan de Ulua and Sacrificios near Veracruz; Guadalupe at a great distance from the coast of Lower California; Tres Marias, a group of three islands near the same coast; The Revillagigedo Islands and Alcatraz Island on the west coast of Colima and Michoacan.

The principal rivers of the Republic are the Rio Grande, or Rio Bravo del Norte, as it is called in Mexico, being about 1,500 miles long; the Lerma, or Santiago, 540 miles in length; the Balsas, or Mescala, Fuerte, 340 miles; the Usumacinta, 330 miles; and others like the Panuco and Papaloapan of sufficient importance.

Among the lakes, the most extensive is the Chapala, which measures eighty miles in length by thirty in breadth. In the Valley of Mexico there are seven lakes. There are other lakes of importance in various states of the Republic, such as Catemaco in Veracruz, Cariel and Carpintero in Tamaulipas, Encantado in Tabasco, Bacalor in Yucatan, Cuitzeo and Patzeuaro in Michoacan, Yuriria in Guanajuato, and Meztitlan in Hidalgo.

Owing to its geographical position, Mexico possesses a great diversity of climate. The heat of the torrid zone is felt along the coast and in the valleys which are below 3,000 feet of sea level. Lands which lie in a region between 3,000 and 5,000 feet above sea level enjoy a temperate climate, while those in higher altitude than 7,000 feet may be considered as lying in the cold region.

The climate of Mexico is considered by many as the most delightful in the world along the central plateau, which is the region of the Republic most thickly populated.

The climatic conditions of some parts of Mexico are undergoing great changes on account of the destruction of forests. The seasons are divided into the rainy and the dry.

Regarding the flora and fauna of Mexico, we may say that they are most varied and important. Further on we will refer more fully to them; for the present it may be stated that there are raised in Mexico all the products of the torrid, temperate, and frigid zones. As far as mining is concerned, we can truly say that Mexico is perhaps the richest country in the world in that line.

The population of the Republic was estimated at 9,908,011 in 1879. The census of 1895 gave a total of 12,619,949. The latest census, held in 1900, gives 13,545,462 as the total number of inhabitants in the Republic.

### III

## The Constitution

As already stated, the Constitution now in force in Mexico was adopted on February 5, 1857. Since then it has been amended at different times. It adopts for the Republic a representative, democratic, and federal form of government, the states composing the Republic being free as to anything which refers to their interior administration. The Federal Government is divided into three coordinate branches, viz: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.

The legislative power of the Republic is vested in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The members of the Chamber of Deputies are elected for two years, while the senators serve four years, half of the Senate being renewed every two years, and only two senators being elected for each state and the Federal District.

The Congress meets twice every year. The first session, which may be extended thirty days, begins on September 16 and ends on December 15. The second, which can be extended for fifteen days, opens on April 1 and closes on May 31.

While the Congress is not in session there is a Permanent Committee consisting of twenty-nine members, fifteen from the Chamber of Deputies and fourteen from the Senate, who are appointed by the respective legislative bodies. This Permanent Committee has certain limited powers and reports on all matters not acted upon by the previous Congress, so as to expedite business in the succeeding session.

The executive power is in the hands of the "President of the United Mexican States", who is elected by electors chosen by the people, for a term of four years. The President may be re-elected, there being no limitation whatever as to the number of times that he may serve. In case of temporary vacancy in the office of President, the Secretary of Foreign Relations acts in his stead, while in case of his death or personal disability, a provisional president is elected by Congress, who discharges the duties of the office until a successor is elected by the people. The salary of the President is \$50,000 per year.

The President appoints the persons who comprise his cabinet. They are seven, and have charge of the following departments: Foreign Relations; Interior; Justice and Public Instruction; Public Promotion, Colonization and Industry; Communications and Public Works; Finance and Public Credit; War and Navy.

The Federal Judiciary consists of the Supreme Court of Justice and the District and Circuit Courts. They have jurisdiction: (a) In



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all cases arising from the enforcement and application of federal laws, provided the same do not affect private interests. (b) In admiralty cases. (c) In cases to which the Federal Government is a party. (d) In cases arising between two or more states. (e) In cases arising between a state and one or more citizens of another state, or between two or more states. (f) In civil or criminal cases arising from treaties made with foreign powers. (g) In cases affecting diplomatic and consular offices. The jurisdiction of said courts likewise extend to all cases growing out of laws or acts of any authority which infringe individual rights; of laws or acts of the Federal Executive which violate or limit the sovereignty of states, and of laws or acts of such states which encroach on the authority of the Federal Government.

The seat of the supreme power of the Federation is the capital of the Republic, situated within the Federal District.

Under the Constitution all men are born free within the Republic and slaves who set foot upon the national territory, thereby recover their liberty. Instruction is free, and every man may adopt the profession, industrial pursuit, or occupation, which he prefers, provided it is useful and honorable. No one can be obliged to give personal services without just compensation and without his full consent. The liberty to write or to publish writings on any subject whatever is inviolable. No previous censure nor other restriction on the liberty of the press may be allowed. The right of petition and of lawful assemblage is secured.

Every man has the right to enter and to leave the Republic, to travel through its territory and to change his residence, without the necessity of a passport or safe-conduct.

No title of nobility or hereditary honors are recognized, and no person may be tried by special law nor by special tribunals, nor shall retroactive laws be enacted. No person may be arrested for debts of a purely civil character, and imprisonment shall take place only for crimes which deserve corporal punishment, while no detention shall exceed the term of three days, unless justified by a writ showing cause of imprisonment and other requisites established by the laws. Punishment by mutilation and infamy, branding, flogging, the bastinado, torture of whatever kind, confiscation of property, or any unusual or extraordinary punishment are forever prohibited.

In all criminal proceedings, the accused shall have the following guarantees: that the ground of the proceedings and the name of the complainant, if there shall be one, shall be made known to him; that his preliminary declaration shall be taken within forty-eight hours after the time when he may be placed at the disposal of the judge; that he shall be confronted with the witnesses who testify against him; that he shall be furnished with the information that he may require and that appears in the records of the proceedings, and finally that he shall be heard in his defence by himself or by counsel, or by both, as he may



**Hon. Ignacio Mariscal**  
**Secretary of Foreign Relations**



## The Constitution

desire. No criminal proceedings may be heard before more than three tribunals, and no one shall be tried twice for the same offence, whether by the judgment of the court he be acquitted or condemned.

In time of peace no soldier may demand quarters, supplies, or other real or personal service, without the consent of the owner; and in time of war he may do so only in the manner prescribed by law.

Private property shall not be taken without the consent of the owner, except on the ground of public utility, and upon previous indemnification. The inviolability of sealed correspondence going through the mails is secured, and the infractors of this guarantee shall be punished severely.

Monopolies of all kinds under pretext of industrial protection, are prohibited, excepting the government's exclusive right to coin money and of the postal service, besides the limited privileges granted by law to patentees of any useful invention.

No corporation, civil or ecclesiastical, whatever may be its character, denomination, or object, shall have legal capacity to acquire in ownership, or manage for itself, real estate, with the exception of the buildings directly devoted to service or object of the institution, and no religious corporation is permitted to acquire real estate or the capital invested thereon, except as prescribed by law.

The Senate and the church are independent of one another, and Congress may not pass laws establishing or prohibiting any religion. No monastic orders can be recognized, nor will the government permit their establishment.

Marriage is considered a simple civil contract and the civil status of persons belong to the exclusive jurisdiction of the functionaries of the civil order within the limits prescribed by the laws. The simple promise to speak the truth and comply with the obligations that are insured thereby, is substituted for the religious oath, with its effects and penalties.

The President of the Republic, with the advice of his cabinet and with the approval of Congress, or, during its recess, of the Permanent Committee, may suspend all constitutional guarantees in cases of invasion, serious internal disorder, or great disturbance endangering the state, but only for a limited period, by means of general provisions and without the same being aimed at a particular individual.

According to the Constitution, Mexicans are: (1) All persons born within or without the territory of the Republic, of Mexican parentage. (2) Foreigners that are naturalized in conformity with the federal laws. (3) Foreigners that may acquire real estate in the Republic, or have children, provided they do not express their determination to preserve their nationality. It is the duty of every Mexican to defend the independence, territory, honor, rights, and interests of his country, and to contribute to the general expenses of the Federation, as well as of the state and municipality in which he may reside, and as the law may prescribe. To be a citizen of the Republic,

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one must, beside being a Mexican, be eighteen years of age, if married, or twenty-one, if not married, and possess honest means of livelihood. All citizens have the right to vote at all popular elections, to be voted for any office subject to popular election, and be appointed for any other employment or commission, if they have the qualifications established by law; to meet with others to discuss the political affairs of the country, to enter the army or the national guard, and to exercise in all cases the right of petition. A citizen has the obligation to be inscribed on the register of the municipality stating all property owned by him and the industry, profession, and labor he is engaged in, to enlist in the national guard, to vote at popular elections in the district to which he belongs, and to discharge the duty of any office to which he may be elected. Citizenship is lost by naturalization in a foreign country and by serving officially the government of another nation, or accepting from it badges, titles, or employment, without previous permission from the Federal Congress, excepting literary, scientific, and humanitarian titles, which may be accepted freely.

Foreigners under the Constitution are those who do not possess the qualifications of Mexicans, above stated; they have all general rights granted to Mexican citizens, but must obey and respect the institutions, laws, and authorities of the country, subjecting themselves to the judgment and decrees of the courts, without having the right to seek other protection than that granted to Mexican citizens. The rights and duties of aliens and foreigners, as well as their naturalization, have been regulated by the law of May 26, 1886.

The powers which are not expressly granted by the Constitution, are understood to be reserved to the states. The Constitution, the laws of the Congress of the Union passed by virtue thereof, and all the treaties made, or which shall be made, by the President of the Republic with the approval of Congress, shall be the supreme law of the land, and the judges of each state shall be guided by said Constitution, laws, and treaties, notwithstanding provisions to the contrary, which may appear in the Constitution or laws of the states.



Gen. Manuel Gonzalez Cosío  
Secretary of the Interior



## IV

# The Federal Administration

As we have already stated, the executive power of the Republic is lodged in the President, who has a cabinet of seven secretaries to assist him in the discharge of his duties. We will now cursorily glance at the work assigned to each of the said secretaries, who are at the head of the respective departments of the Federation.

The Secretary of the Department of Foreign Relations has a sub-secretary, as his assistant, and five chiefs of bureaus. The first bureau is entrusted with all diplomatic affairs relating to America, Asia, and Oceanic. The second bureau has under its charge the same matters relating to Europe. The third bureau has in charge the consular service. The fourth bureau is for letters-patent, treaties, passports, register of naturalization, etc. The fifth bureau deals with the accounts, archives and library of the department. The general archives of the nation are also under the direct management of the Department of Foreign Relations.

Mexico is represented abroad by an embassy in the United States, by legations in England, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Russia, Belgium, Holland, Portugal, and Austria, in Europe; a legation for the Central American Republics, another for the South American Republics, and one in Japan. There are also representatives from those countries in Mexico, who reside at the capital of the Republic, the representative of the United States having the full rank of ambassador.

The diplomatic career is governed in Mexico by the organic law of June 3, 1896, and the regulations of the same.

Mexico has established a competent consular service abroad, and the same is regulated by the law of February 12, 1834, which has been modified several times. The regulations for the service were issued on September 16, 1871.

Treaties of friendship, commerce, navigation, extradition, etc., with nearly all the nations in the globe have been signed and are in force, and the boundary treaties with the United States, Guatemala, and Great Britain, already referred to, have satisfactorily solved pending questions as to the boundary lines with the neighboring nations.

The Department of Interior has under its charge the due observance of the Federal Constitution, the election of federal officers, the relations between the President of the Republic and the Congress and the various states, public health, regulations as to public worship, the administration of the Federal District and the territories, the rural



## A Few Facts About Mexico

police, the public civil register, the national loan office, municipal councils, federal penitentiaries and houses of correction, public charities, public festivities, the Official Gazette, and the government printing office. The secretary has a sub-secretary and four chiefs of bureaus under his immediate direction.

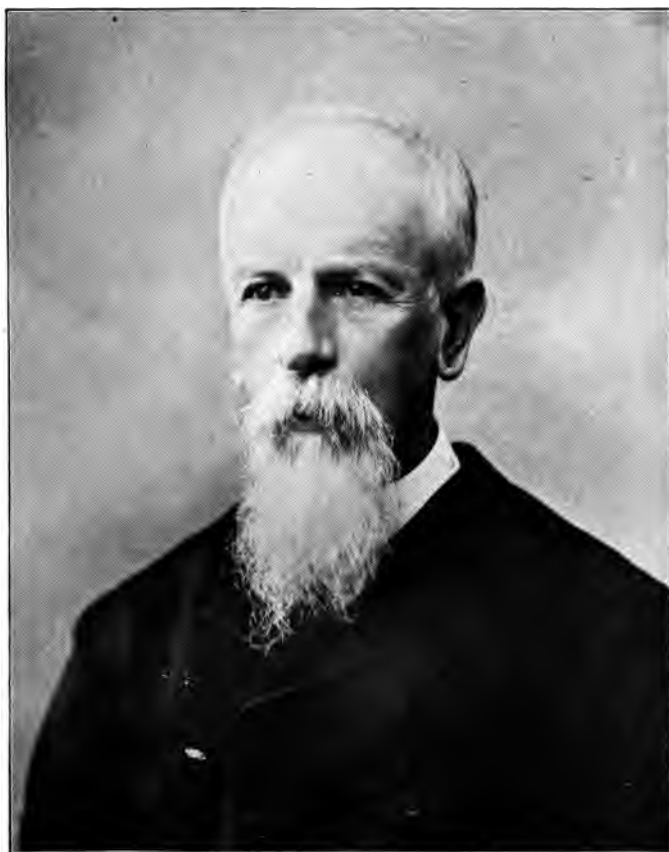
The Federal District and the two territories, as far as political and administrative powers are concerned, are directly under the control of the Department of the Interior, while the Federal Congress legislates regarding them. This department likewise directs everything relative to public health through the Superior Council of that branch of the public service, acting in conformity with the law on the subject, approved September 10, 1894. Public security, the electoral regulations and the establishment of harmonious relations between the federal and the state authorities are matters which greatly claim the attention of this department.

Justice and public instruction are branches of the public service entrusted to the same secretary, but during the present year two sub-secretaries instead of one, have been respectively assigned to aid the secretary in his labors. The first branch mentioned comprises the administration of justice, in everything relative to the federal laws and courts throughout the Republic and the administration of the law in general in the Federal District and the territories.

The educational establishments of the Federation, all under the control of this department, are divided into primary, higher or secondary, and professional, confining the same, of course, to the institutions of that character in the Federal District and the territories.

For the sake of uniformity in primary instruction, there was established under the law of June 3, 1896, a general bureau of primary instruction answerable to the department, and having branch offices in the territories of the Tepic and Lower California. Hereafter we shall refer to the federal institutions of higher and professional education, which are under the direction of this department, but we may here state that the National Museum, the National Bibliographical Institute, the National Library, and other public libraries in the Federal District and the territories are likewise under the control of this department.

The following are matters under the supervision of the Department of Public Promotion, Colonization, and Industry, viz: Sale of public lands, industry, trade marks, weights and measures, mining properties, water rights, agriculture, pisciculture, forestry, natural productions, immigration, national geography, astronomical and meteorological observations, patents, national and international expositions, geology, statistics, and the study of Mexican medicinal plants. There is a sub-secretary and six chiefs of bureaus to aid the secretary, and likewise a director of statistics, a medical institute, a weights and measures department, the geological commission, and the commission of geographical explor-



**Hon. Justino Fernandez**  
**Secretary of Justice and Public Instruction.**



## **The Federal Administration**

ations. The work of making the boundary lines between Mexico and its neighbors was also under this department, which has charge, as already stated, likewise, of the principal sources of national wealth of the Republic.

The Department of Communications and Public Work has control of everything relative to telegraph, railroad, and steamship lines, bridges, roads, post offices, hydrographic works, public monuments, the drainage of the Valley of Mexico, and other public works in general. There is a sub-secretary and three chiefs of bureaus to aid the secretary in his labors. Furthermore, the hydrographic commission, the post-master-general, and the director-general of telegraphs, are dependencies of this department.

The Department of Finance and Public Credit has under its charge the collection of all federal taxes and imports, the purchase, sale, and management of all national property, all matters relative to institutions of credit and to the mints, the expenses of the federal administration, fiscal statistics, the public register of property, and everything pertaining to the commerce and the public debt of the Republic.

Finally, the Department of War and Navy has under its control supervision of everything pertaining to the military and naval service of the nation. The sub-secretary and six chiefs of bureaus assist in the various labors of this department. Dependent on it are the general staff, the military school at Chapultepec, and other establishments for instruction in the various branches of the military and naval services. The Supreme Military Court and its subordinate tribunals, as well as various commissions for the advancement and improvement of the service and to prepare charts and maps of the Republic, are also subject to the control of this important department.



## V

# President Diaz and His Cabinet

We think that it would not be out of place to give here slight biographical sketches of President Diaz and the members of his cabinet.

Porfirio Diaz was born at Oaxaca, September 15, 1830. After finishing his preliminary studies, he entered the seminary of his native city, and while a student took part, in 1847, in the defense of his country against the armies of the United States. Two years afterwards, he began to study law at the Institute of Sciences of the State of Oaxaca. Unfortunately, lack of means and the necessity of assisting his family, made him abandon his studies. Affiliated with the Liberal party of his country, he early took part in its struggles against the Conservatives, and helped in the overthrow of General Santa Anna. The first public office held by Porfirio Diaz was that of Sub-prefect at Ixtlan. When the War of Reform began he was Captain in the 2nd Battalion of the State National Guard. During that war he was dangerously wounded, in 1857, at the Battle of Ixtapa. As soon as he recovered he again took up arms, fought in various encounters, and in July, 1857, became Lieutenant-colonel in the National Guard, while shortly afterwards he was made Colonel. In 1860, he laid siege to Oaxaca, took it, but was wounded in the leg while leading his men on to the assault. When the War of Reform ended he was elected a Deputy to the Federal Congress, but his legislative labors were very brief, and he again entered the field against the reactionary forces, which he defeated at Jalatlaco, August 3, 1861. This feat of arms gave him the rank of Brigadier-general. When the French invasion commenced, General Diaz took up the defence of his native land and formed part of the victorious army which defeated the foreign troops at Puebla, May 5, 1862. He therefore continued in active service and was among the defenders of the same city of Puebla, which surrendered to the French after a long siege in the spring of 1863. There he fell a prisoner, escaped, and again fought in the ranks of the Liberal forces. He was captured a second time and again eluded his captors. Thereupon, he gathered fresh troops and defeated the invaders of his country at Tulancingo, Piutla, and Miahuatlan, his crowning achievements at that time being the victory of La Carbonera, won October, 16, 1866, and the taking of Oaxaca soon after. He then laid siege to Puebla, and upon learning that a large force was coming to relieve the city, he ordered a general assault which was successful. This took place April 2, 1867. Thereafter he defeated the relieving

## A Few Facts About Mexico

army, hastened and laid siege to the capital of the Republic, which he took June 21, 1867, this being the finishing blow to the so-called empire. Peace being restored, he retired to private life, but when he was nominated as a presidential candidate he issued his manifest, called of "La Noria," this being the country place where he resided. This political movement terminated when President Juarez died and Mr. Lerdo de Tejada became President. Owing to the agitation against the re-election of President Lerdo de Tejada, the manifest or "plan" of Tuxtec was issued, and through the battles won at Tecoac and Los Abodes, General Diaz entered victorious the City of Mexico November 24, 1876. A general election being held, he was elected President of the Republic, and took possession of that high office May 2, 1877. He remained as chief executive of the nation until December 1, 1880, when he surrendered his trust to his successor, General Manuel Gonzalez. From the first election of President Diaz the era of peace and prosperity, the development of railways, and the establishment of several new industries may be properly said to have commenced in the Mexican Republic. During the administration of General Gonzalez, Porfirio Diaz acted as Secretary of Public Promotion, Senator, Governor of the State of Oaxaca, and Commissioner-general for the New Orleans Exposition of 1884-5. Prior to the discharge of his duties as such Commissioner-General he made a trip to the United States, where he was most cordially received and grandly entertained. Upon his re-election to the presidency he again assumed office in December, 1884, and since the approval of a constitutional amendment he has been through successive re-elections, reinaugurated President, in 1888, 1892, 1896, and 1900. The enthusiastic and magnificent ovation he received upon his reinauguration in last December is still fresh in the memory of all newspaper readers. President Diaz is, indeed, one of the most popular and conspicuous leaders in both continents, and his achievements in peace and in war will give him everlasting fame.

Among the great gifts that President Diaz possesses as a statesman, one of the most remarkable is that of knowing how to choose his advisors and how to surround himself by most competent and able counsellors. The Cabinet of the President is an exceptionally strong one. The Premier, or Secretary of Foreign Relations, who under the Constitution holds a position equivalent to that of Vice President, is Mr. Ignacio Mariscal, who was born at the City of Oaxaca, July 5, 1829. From his earliest childhood he showed great aptitude for the study of jurisprudence, and when scarcely twenty years of age he was admitted to the bar at the capital of the Republic. He then returned to his native city, where he held various subordinate offices. Being elected a member of the National Constitutional Convention, he was one of the signers of the Federal Constitution, adopted February 5, 1857, and which is now in force. During the War of Reform he held office under Juarez. In 1861 and 1862 he was again a member of the Chamber of Deputies. Thereafter he became a Justice of the National



**Hon. Leandro Fernandez**

**Secretary of the Department of Public Promotion, under the direction of whose  
Department Mexico's Exhibit at Buffalo is made**





## President Díaz and His Cabinet

Supreme Court, and in 1863 he was Sub-secretary of Foreign Affairs. During the War of the French Intervention he was Secretary of the Legation, and then Charge d'Affairs of Mexico at Washington. Upon his return to his native country he occupied various official positions, and in 1868 he became Secretary of Justice and Public Instruction. In the succeeding year he was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in the United States, which high diplomatic position he held until 1876. Returning to Mexico, he successfully filled the offices of Justice of the Supreme Court of the Federal District, President of National School of Jurisprudence, and in 1879 he again took charge of the Department of Justice and Public Instruction. It was mainly through his efforts that the Codes of Civil Procedure and of Penal Procedure and other laws regarding practice in the federal courts were issued. In 1880 Mr. Mariscal was appointed Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and since then until now, excepting the period he acted as Mexico's diplomatic representative at the Court of St. James and a few months' travel in Europe for the benefit of his health, he has been at the head of that important department. His invaluable services in the negotiations of treaties, and in settling the difficult boundary questions with Guatemala and Belize, and in all other matters referring to international relations, are well known, and have won for him a high reputation as a diplomat. He is, furthermore, an eloquent orator, an elegant writer, and a fine linguist. He is a member of several foreign and domestic scientific and literary societies, and has received decorations from various governments. The last visit of Mr. Mariscal to the United States was in 1899, when he came as representative of President Díaz to take part in the laying of the corner stone of the public federal building of Chicago. In that city, in New York, and elsewhere, he was most cordially and enthusiastically received.

At the head of the Department of the Interior we find General Manuel Gonzalez Cosio, who was born at the City of Zacatecas in 1838. After obtaining a common school education he went to the City of Mexico, where he pursued the studies necessary for the career of a civil engineer. The Civil War between the Conservative and Liberal parties drew young Gonzalez Cosio into the ranks of the Liberal army. Through his gallant conduct in various battles he rose rapidly, and when the War of the French Intervention commenced he was among the first to take up arms on behalf of his country. His most brilliant achievements during those campaigns was his stubborn defence of Fort Santa Ines, 1863, at the City of Puebla; as a recognition of his conduct he was then appointed General. He was then taken prisoner and sent to France, where he remained about a year. Regaining his liberty, he decided to return to his country with two fellow-prisoners. Upon arriving in the United States, the three companions had no means to pursue their homeward journey, and so determined to draw lots and find out which one of them would enlist in the Federal Army,

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so that with the bounty money the other two might be able to reach their native land. Luck was against him, and he was about to enter the service of the United States, when a friend loaned the three patriots sufficient funds to buy their passage to Mexico. There, General Gonzalez Cosío continued fighting bravely in the ranks of the Republican army. When peace was restored he was elected deputy, then member of the Federal Senate, and on two occasions Governor of his native state. From 1886 to 1889 he was President of the Common Council of the capital of the Republic. Thereafter he became Secretary of Communications and Public Works, and on the death of the able statesman, Manuel Romero Rubio, the portfolio of the Interior was given to him. He has been ever since at the head of that department, gaining well-merited praise for his efficient administration of affairs. During his term of office the new penitentiary of the Federal District and other public improvements, as well as charitable and correctional institutions, have been established and fostered.

Mr. Justino Fernandez is the latest addition to President Diaz's Cabinet, and was appointed Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, and succeeded the former Minister, Mr. Joaquin Baranda, April 19th of the present year. The new Secretary was born at the City of Mexico, June 22, 1828. After the termination of the usual academic course, he pursued his professional studies and in January, 1853, was admitted to the bar. Soon after he took part in political life, and became a member of the Common Council of the City of Mexico. He entered the ranks of the Liberal party and was returned to Congress. He has had the honor of being one of the signers of the Federal Constitution of 1857, now in force. Mr. Fernandez has held several important offices, and in 1860 was elected Governor of the State of Hidalgo. Since 1882 he has been one of the most prominent members of Congress at various times, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and since 1884 Dean of the National College of Jurisprudence. He is a member of many scientific and literary societies, both at home and abroad, and is a fine speaker and forcible writer.

Mr. Leandro Fernandez, Secretary of the Department of Public Promotion, Mining, Agriculture, and Colonization, was born February 27, 1851, in the District of Nombre de Dios, State of Durango. He pursued his preliminary instruction in his native city, but terminated his professional studies at the City of Mexico. In 1873 he was received as assayer, and soon after as civil engineer. He practiced his profession successfully, and had under his charge the Chair of Mathematics and Astronomy at the National College of Mines. For a time he was President of that institution of learning and also Director of the Central Astronomical Observatory. Upon the organization of the new Department of Communications and Public Works he was appointed Sub-secretary of that department. He has been likewise Director of the Mint at the capital of the Republic and a member of the Sanitary Board of said city.



**Gen. Francisco Z. Mena**  
**Secretary of Communications and Public Works**



## President Diaz and His Cabinet

He discharged with marked ability the duties of these various positions. In 1897 he was elected Governor of the State of Durango, but soon returned to take charge of the Mint at the City of Mexico. Finally upon the resignation of the former Secretary of the Department of Public Promotion, Mr. Manuel Fernandez Leal, President Diaz, with his usual tact and foresight, selected Mr. Leandro Fernandez as his successor. He entered into the discharge of his new duties in December, 1900.

General Francisco Z. Mena, the Secretary of Communications and Public Works, was born in 1841 at the City of Leon, State of Guanajuato. While yet a boy he entered the ranks of the Liberal army, and in March, 1857, began his distinguished military career as a Lieutenant in the infantry army. He rose in rank and in November, 1880, was made a Brigadier-general. During the War of the French Intervention he was a member of General Diaz's staff. After the fall of Maximilian, he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies, was re-elected for several terms, and thereafter became Governor of the State of Guanajuato. Being appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of his country in London and Berlin, he served with distinction, until he resigned. He remained several years abroad, but was finally called by President Diaz to his present position. In his department General Mena has supervision over the railways, telegraph and postal services of the Republic, which he has managed with great ability. A distinguished soldier and an affable gentleman, General Mena has won the esteem of all who come in contact with him.

The Secretary of Finance in President Diaz's Cabinet is Mr. Jose Ives Limantour, a lawyer by profession and a great financier. He was born at the City of Mexico, December 24, 1854. His parents were wealthy and gave him all the advantages of a liberal education. After pursuing his preliminary studies at the National Preparatory School, and his law studies at the National School of Jurisprudence, he was admitted to the bar in March, 1875. In the succeeding year he was appointed Professor of Political Economy at the National College of Commerce. He began his public career as a member of the Common Council of the City of Mexico, and in 1888 he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies, where he served several terms and acted as President of said legislative body. During that time at various occasions he filled commissions of importance for the Federal Government. His thorough acquaintance with all questions relative to political economy led to his appointment in March, 1892, as Sub-secretary of the Department of Finance. A year afterwards he was given the portfolio of that department, where he has since rendered inestimable services to his country. The late conversion of the public debt and the financial operations performed under his direction, whereby a balance of several millions have remained in the National Treasury, have stamped him as one of the ablest financiers of the present time. Mr. Limantour speaks several languages, is highly accomplished, and although

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wealthy, instead of devoting his time to frivolous amusements or pleasure, gives himself up readily to intellectual labor and painstaking study. He has traveled throughout Europe and the United States, his last trip having occurred during the spring and summer of 1899.

The Portfolio of War and Navy in General Diaz's Cabinet is held by General Bernando Reyes, one of the most popular military leaders of the Republic. He was born at the City of Guadalajara in 1850, and after pursuing his preliminary studies, entered college, but when sixteen years of age he went into the ranks of the Republican army, which was fighting against the French invaders. He rose rapidly through his gallantry, and was present at the siege of Queretaro, when Archduke Maximilian was made a prisoner. After peace was restored he continued his military career, and at various times assisted in putting down some revolutionary chieftains. At Villa Union he won a great victory, but was wounded three times. It was then he was given the rank of Brigadier-general. Since then he has been made a Major-general. Owing to his popularity he was made Governor of the State of Nuevo Leon in 1885, and was re-elected for several successive terms. His wise and enlightened administration of affairs in that state gave him both a national and an international reputation. Finally, on the death of Secretary of War Berriozabal, in 1899, President Diaz called him to become a member of his Cabinet. In that position he has rendered important services, and has justly earned the plaudits of his countrymen.

The foregoing brief sketches of the persons who are aiding President Diaz in his great and patriotic labors, sufficiently demonstrate the wisdom displayed by the Executive of Mexico in the selection of the members of his official family.



Hon. Jose Ives Limantour  
Secretary of Finances





## VI

# The Federal District, the States, and the Territories

The Republic of Mexico is divided into a Federal District, twenty-seven states, and two territories. As already stated, the states are free and independent as far as their internal affairs are concerned; each one has a Governor, a Legislature, and a State Judiciary.

The Federal District, situated in the southwestern portion of the Valley of Mexico, has an area of about 463 square miles. According to the census of 1900, it has a population of 540,478 inhabitants. It is divided into four subprefectures, viz: Guadalupe-Hidalgo, Tacubaya, Tlalpan and Xochimilco, and the Municipality of Mexico, the capital of the Republic. About three-fourths of the lands in the Federal District are under cultivation. The Municipality of Mexico comprises the capital proper, with a population of 368,777 inhabitants. It has about nine hundred streets and lanes, five hundred and thirty-two public and private schools, ten theaters, twenty-one hospitals and asylums, one hundred and thirty-four churches, fourteen markets, and thirty-four libraries. The number of dwelling houses in the Federal District was 47,901 in 1900, and the value of real estate about \$200,000,000. The City of Mexico is one of the oldest of this continent, and has been successively the capital of the Aztec Empire, of the Colony of New Spain, and now of the Republic. At present it embraces nearly twice the area that it did in olden times. It is a most important commercial center and possesses wealthy banking institutions, great manufacturing industries, large and numerous stores and mercantile establishments, electric lighting and tramways, and all the comforts and conveniences to be found in the leading cities of the world. The great work of the drainage of the Valley of Mexico, which was successfully terminated in 1896 at a cost of more than \$13,000,000, is now to be perfected and made thoroughly available to the city, by the construction of an extensive system of interior sewers, soon to be completed at an expense of several million dollars. The water supply of the city has been greatly enlarged, and lately the widening of several streets, the construction of a new hospital, of a magnificent national theater, of a Legislative palace, of a new post-office, and of other expensive improvements, will greatly add to the beauty and attractiveness of that great capital.

We will now briefly describe the states of the Republic in their alphabetical order:

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The State of Aguascalientes has a population of 101,940 inhabitants. Its total area is about 2,951 square miles. Though one of the smallest states in the Republic, it is very rich in agricultural resources. The principal industries of the state are stock raising, agriculture, mining, and commerce. Its chief city, bearing the same name, had in 1900 a population of 35,052 inhabitants.

The State of Campeche, with a population of 84,281 inhabitants, occupies the western portion of the Peninsula of Yucatan. Its area is 18,091 square miles. Nearly all the state has a hot climate. Its principal industries is the cutting and shipping of cabinet woods, commerce, agriculture, stock raising, fisheries, exploitation of the salt deposits, and manufacturing of articles made from the heniquen fiber. Its capital is the City of Campeche, with a population in 1895 of about 17,000 inhabitants.\* Its leading sea port is El Carmen.

The State of Chiapas has a population of 363,607 inhabitants, and is situated along the boundary line with Guatemala, and has an area of 27,230 square miles. It has great agricultural resources and, though generally hot, has lands at a moderate altitude, enjoying a temperate climate. Its principal industries are the raising of coffee, tobacco, rubber, and fruits, stock raising and commerce.. Its capital is Tuxtla Gutierrez, with a population in 1895 of 7,882 inhabitants, and its leading sea ports are Tonala and San Benito.

The State of Chihuahua is the largest state in the Republic, has an area of 87,820 square miles and a population of 327,004 inhabitants. It is a very rich state in mining and agriculture, and its manufacturing interests are also of importance. Being situated along the frontier of the United States, it has great commerce with said country. Its capital city bearing the same name has a population in 1895 of 13,128 inhabitants.

The State of Coahuila is the third largest in the Republic, and has also the United States for its northern boundary. Its area is 62,376 square miles and its population is 280,899 inhabitants. Agriculture is the principal industry of the state and cattle raising is one of its great sources of wealth. Although its mining resources were little known until lately, now they are being well and properly developed. The leading city and capital is Saltillo, with a population in 1900 of 40,441 inhabitants.

The State of Colima is after Tlaxcala, the smallest of the Republic. Its area is 2,273 square miles and it has a population of 65,026 inhabitants. Most of the state is in a tropical region and has a good coast line along the Pacific Ocean. The principal industries are agriculture, stock raising, and the exploitation of the salt deposits. The capital of the state had in 1895 19,305 inhabitants.

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\*Where the figures of the census of 1900 could not be obtained before this publication went to press, those of the census of 1895 are given.



**Gen. Bernardo Reyes**  
Secretary of War and Navy



## The Federal District, the States, and the Territories

The State of Durango has an area of 38,020 square miles and a population of 371,274 inhabitants. It is a very large and rich state, and its capital city bearing the same name had a population in 1900 of 42,165 inhabitants. Its principal industries are agriculture, stock raising, and commerce. There are various manufactories in the state, among which are several cotton mills of importance.

The State of Guanajuato has an area of 11,374 square miles and a population of 1,065,317 inhabitants. Its capital city had in 1900 a population of 52,412 inhabitants. There are other large cities as Leon, Celaya, San Miguel Allende, Irapuato, Silao, and Salamanca. The state has one of the richest mineral regions in the world and is a most important mercantile and industrial center of the Republic.

The State of Guerrero, having a sea coast line on the Pacific, has a population of 474,594 inhabitants and an area of 25,003 square miles. Its leading city and capital is Chilpancingo with 6,204 inhabitants in 1895, and its principal sea port is Acapulco. The commerce and manufacturing interests of Guerrero are as yet of comparatively little importance, and its agricultural and mineral interests are partly undeveloped.

The State of Hidalgo, with an area of 8,920 square miles and a population of 603,074 inhabitants, is one of the most important in so far as mining is concerned. Its principal industries are the reduction of ores, the manufacturing of cotton and woolen goods and of pulque, brick tiles, etc. Its leading city and capital is Pachuca, with a population in 1895 of 52,189 inhabitants.

The State of Jalisco is one of the richest in the Republic and has the largest population of any. Its manufacturing, agricultural, and commercial interests are very great. It has an area of 31,855 square miles and a population of 1,137,311 inhabitants. Its capital is Guadalajara, a very beautiful city with a population in 1895 of 83,870 inhabitants.

The State of Mexico is among the most important in the Republic for its agricultural and industrial interests. It has an area of 9,250 square miles and a population of 924,457 inhabitants. Stock raising and mining are also sources of its wealth. The leading city and capital, Toluca, with a population in 1900 of 20,893 inhabitants, is a most attractive and interesting town.

The State of Michoacan is another of the leading agricultural states in the Republic. It has also very rich mining districts and its commerce and manufacturing interests are quite important. Its population is 935,847 inhabitants and it has an area of 22,881 square miles. Its leading city and capital, Morelia, had in 1895 32,287 inhabitants, is situated in a picturesque location, and offers great attractions to the tourist.

The State of Morelos is one of the smallest, but is a rich state, with an area of 2,774 square miles and a population of 161,697 inhabitants. Its leading industries are manufacturing, commerce, and

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agriculture. Its leading city and capital, Cuernavaca, had in 1895 8,554 inhabitants and is a most attractive winter resort.

The State of Nuevo Leon, which occupies part of the eastern slope of the Central Plateau, has an area of 24,324 square miles and a population of 326,940 inhabitants. It has large manufacturing interests, its agriculture has been steadily progressing, but its mineral wealth has not been greatly developed. Its principal city and capital is Monterrey, a most progressive town and had in 1900 62,266 inhabitants.

The State of Oaxaca is also of great importance, has an area of 35,392 square miles and a population of 947,910 inhabitants. Its leading industries are agriculture, manufacturing, and mining. It has an extensive coast line along the Pacific Ocean, along which may be found Salina Cruz, one of the termini of the Tehuantepec R. R., Puerto Angel, and other harbors. The capital had 32,641 inhabitants in 1895 and is an interesting city.

The State of Puebla in the central portion of the Republic is most important, especially on account of its manufacturing and agricultural interests. It has an area of 12,207 square miles and a population of 1,024,446 inhabitants. Its capital bears the same name and had 91,917 inhabitants in 1895, and is a large commercial center and a handsome city.

The State of Queretaro, though one of the smallest of the Republic, is very rich in agriculture and mining, and its commercial and industrial interests are in flourishing condition. It has an area of 3,558 square miles and a population of 228,489 inhabitants. Its capital, bearing the same name, is historically most interesting, and had in 1895 a population of 32,790 inhabitants.

The State of San Luis Potosi, also one of the central states, is rich in mining and agriculture, while its industries are rapidly increasing in importance. It has a population of 582,486 inhabitants, and an area of 25,323 square miles. Its capital has the same name, is an attractive city, and had in 1900 a population of 61,009 inhabitants.

The State of Sinaloa has an extensive sea coast line on the Pacific Ocean, a population of 296,109 inhabitants, an area of 33,681 square miles, and is rich in agricultural and mining resources. Its leading port is Mazatlan, and its capital Culiacan, which in 1895 had a population of 14,205 inhabitants.

The State of Sonora is the second in extent and has an area of 76,922 miles. Its population is 220,553 inhabitants. It is on the border of the United States, and its eastern portion is washed by the Gulf of California. Its soil is very fertile and it has vast mineral resources. Its leading port is Guaymas and its capital Hermosillo, which had in 1900 a population of 17,618 inhabitants.

The State of Tabasco lies on the southeastern part of the Republic and borders on Guatemala. It has large rivers and its agricultural resources are very great. Its area is 10,075 square miles and

## **The Federal District, the States, and the Territories**

has a population of 158,107 inhabitants. The capital city of this state is San Juan Bautista, which has a population of 10,543 inhabitants.

The State of Tamaulipas occupies one of the most beautiful sections of the Republic, and is one of the border states, and has an extensive coast on the Gulf of Mexico. Its principal source of wealth is agriculture, and its mineral resources are scarcely developed. With an area of 32,585 square miles, it contains only 218,948 inhabitants. Its leading sea ports are Matamoros and Tampico, while its capital is Ciudad Victoria, with a population of 10,086 inhabitants, according to the census of 1900.

The State of Tlaxcala is the smallest in size in the Republic, and it has merely 1,595 square miles, with a population of 172,217 inhabitants. It is essentially an agricultural state. Its capital city bears the same name and had in 1895 a population of 2,874 inhabitants.

The State of Veracruz, considered the richest in the Republic, has an area of 29,210 square miles and a population of 960,570 inhabitants. It is one of the most important commercial sections of the Republic, and has an extensive coast along the Gulf of Mexico, its chief ports being Veracruz, Tuxpan, and Coatzacoalco. Its capital is Jalapa, with a population in 1895 of 18,173 inhabitants, but both Orizaba and Veracruz are larger cities in said state.

The State of Yucatan, so celebrated for its production of fibrous plants, is a peninsula with an area of 35,214 square miles and a population of 312,264 inhabitants. Its foreign trade is carried on almost exclusively through the port of Progreso. Its capital city is Merida, which had a population in 1895 of 36,720 inhabitants.

The State of Zacatecas, with an area of 24,764 square miles and a population of 462,886 inhabitants, is one of the most leading central states in the Republic. It cannot be classed as an important agricultural section of the Republic, but its mining resources are vast, while its commerce is very large. Its capital and leading city had a population in 1900 of 32,856 inhabitants.

The two territories of the Republic are Baja (Lower) California, a peninsula bordering on the United States, with an area of 58,345 square miles and a population of 47,082 inhabitants; and Tepic, which formerly was part of the State of Jalisco, having an area of 11,279 square miles and a population of 149,677 inhabitants. The leading city of the former is La Paz, a sea port, with a population in 1895 of 4,737, and the capital of the later bears the name of the territory, and in 1900 had a population of 15,488 inhabitants.







**The Mexican Government Building**  
Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition



## VII

# Mineral Resources

The Mexican Republic is considered by many as the richest mining country in the world, and as Baron Humboldt very well expressed it, Mexico is probably to be "the treasure house of the world." Nearly all her mountains are of a metalliferous character, but those which appear richest in mining deposits are on the western chain, extending from the State of Oaxaca to that of Sonora, a distance of 1,600 miles, more or less, from northwest to northeast. The principal mining regions of the Republic and the states in which they are respectively situated are the following: Peras, State of Oaxaca; Zacualpan, State of Mexico; Guanajuato, State of Guanajuato; Zacatecas, State of Zacatecas; Catorce, State of San Luis Potosi; Topia and Mapimi, State of Durango; Sierra Mojada, State of Coahuila; El Triunfo and Santa Rosalia, Territory of Lower California; Chihuahua and Batopilas, State of Chihuahua.

Besides the above, there are others of sufficient importance to be found in the States of Oaxaca, Nuevo Leon, Aguascalientes, Guerrero, etc.; in fact no state of the Republic can be considered as wanting in mineral resources.

Gold was used freely in Mexico long before the Spanish conquest and it is well known that Cortez and his companions obtained large amounts of that precious metal. Although the production of gold has so far been comparatively small, because silver mining had yielded larger profits, and Mexico had been an undeveloped country in so far as many industries are concerned, the output of the yellow metal has increased during the last few years in a very noticeable manner, and in 1899 there were eighty-nine gold producing mines in the Republic and three hundred and eighty-five mines yielding gold in combination with other metals. The leading states where gold is being produced are Sonora, Sinaloa, Guerrero, and Oaxaca.

The following figures show the most progressive increase in the production of said precious metal in the Republic:

1892-1893	.....	\$1,269,907
1893-1894	.....	\$1,244,621
1894-1895	.....	\$4,744,542
1895-1896	.....	\$6,864,806
1896-1897	.....	\$7,218,836
1897-1898	.....	\$7,726,006
1898-1899	.....	\$8,339,882
1899-1900	.....	\$7,823,701

## A Few Facts About Mexico

The production of silver represents over one-third of the total output of the world, according to official statistics. In 1899 there were in operation in the Republic two hundred and fifty-six silver mines and four hundred and twenty-one mines yielding silver in combination with other metals. The great group of mines in Guanajuato, Zacatecas, and Catorce, have produced more than half of all the silver heretofore found in Mexico, but there are other districts, such as Pachuca and Batopilas, that are immensely rich in their production of the white metal. The annual average production of silver in Mexico from 1892 to 1896 amounted to \$56,311,864. A like yearly average from 1896 to 1900 was \$68,592,540.

Iron is found in very large and extensive deposits in the Republic and if even partially utilized, it would bring great wealth to the country. One of the largest mines of this metal, called "Cerro del Mercado" near the City of Durango is almost a solid mass of mineral, and is 4,800 feet long, 1,100 feet wide and about 640 feet in height. In 1899 there were twelve iron mines in operation in the Republic and eighty-one mines containing it in combination with other metals.

Copper is now being produced in considerable quantities in Mexico, and some of it is exported to the United States and Europe. One of the largest group of mines of that class is the Boleo in Lower California, exploited by a French company. The total yield of that metal in the Republic amounted in 1899 to the sum of \$11,443,733.

As far as quicksilver is concerned, its production is not sufficient for the requirements of the country. In 1899 the yield of that metal amounted to \$396,451.

Although large coal deposits have been found and are exploited in the Republic, its supply is far inadequate to the demand. Since 1881 large deposits of that product have been worked in Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Sonora, Puebla, and other states.

Asphaltum and liquid petroleum are to be found in deposits scattered here and there throughout the Republic, but until recently they have not been worked to any great extent.

Lead mines yielded over \$4,000,000 in metal during 1899, while there were about thirty mines in the same year which produced antimony. Tin and cinnabar can also be found in abundance in several states.

In order to give an idea of the great mineral wealth of Mexico, we present the following table which shows the number of mining properties on which taxes were paid during April, 1901, although of course some of them were not in active operation.

Gold alone .....	995
Gold and silver .....	2,411
Gold, silver, and lead .....	266
Silver alone .....	4,181
Silver and copper .....	340
Silver and lead .....	1,743
Mercury .....	123

## Mineral Resources

Sulphur .....	57
Gold and copper .....	130
Gold, silver, and copper .....	253
Silver, copper, and lead .....	94
Copper .....	412
Copper and lead .....	8
Copper and iron .....	69
Lead .....	37
Iron .....	126
Antimony .....	71
Tin .....	7
Silver and manganese .....	8
Silver and mercury .....	4
Manganese .....	6
Zinc .....	1

There are in the Republic besides, several valuable deposits of salt rock crystal, jasper, marble, splendid building stone, and the beautiful onyx, so well appreciated and liked in this country. There are likewise deposits of various precious stones such as opals, amethyst, topaz, agate, emerald, and garnet.

In order to form a still more complete idea of the product of precious metals in the Republic, we herein append some official data regarding the exportation of metals and the coinage of the Mexican mints.

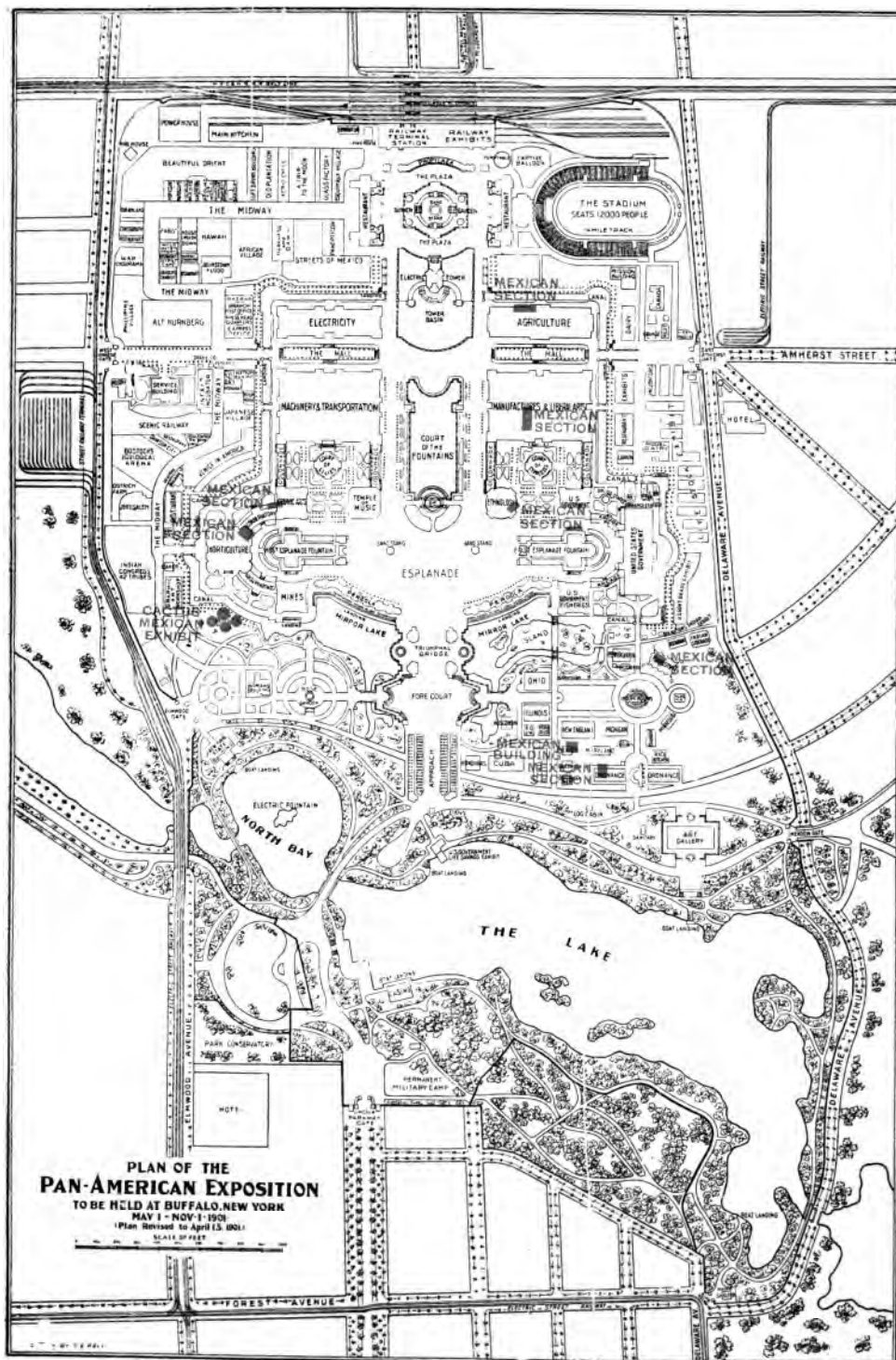
Beforehand we may state that in 1899 the output of all the mines was estimated at \$89,044,906, and that they gave employment to 106,536 persons. From July, 1899, to April, 1900, the total value of the precious metals brought to the mints and assay offices of the Federation was \$52,754,426.35, of which \$49,066,353.67 were in silver and \$3,688,066.68 in gold. For the ten corresponding months of the next fiscal year, viz., from July, 1900, to April, 1901, the corresponding values were \$4,910,272.62 gold and \$48,759,834.90 silver, or a total of \$53,670,107.52, a noticeable increase in that period over the preceding one.

As to coinage we will say that from 1889-1899, a period of ten years, the mints of the Republic issued gold coins to the value of \$4,498,589.50, silver coins amounting to \$242,614,315.60, and copper coins to the value of \$741,277.96, the total coinage for the period of ten years being \$247,854,183.06, or say an average of \$24,785,418 per year. It may be further stated that since the establishment of the mints in the Republic up to 1899, the grand total of coinage has amounted to \$3,577,183,500.14.

The mineral products of all kinds exported from the Republic for a period of ten months terminating in April, 1900, amounted to \$68,793,279 in value, while the exportation of the same products for a like period of ten months terminating in April, 1901, gave a total value of \$83,596,192.58.

The above data fully prove to any unprejudiced mind the greatness of the mineral resources of the Mexican Republic, as well as the increase that the production of metallic substances is there attaining.









## VIII

# Agriculture

The wonderful fertility of the soil of the Mexican Republic is well known, and it may be truly stated that everything that may be cultivated can be raised in that country with great profit to the agriculturist.

Owing to its peculiar geographical situation, and orography, Mexico should be divided into three agricultural zones or regions, which may be designated as the sugar cane and rubber region in the lowlands, the coffee region in the temperate lands, and the section yielding the European cereals, which comprises the central plateaus.

According to an article in the "Corn Reporter" of the Agricultural Department of the United States in its issue for June, 1901, Mexico ranks third among the corn-growing countries of the world, its total crops being exceeded only by those of the United States and Austria-Hungary. This most abundant cereal grows almost everywhere in the Republic, and in some places three crops of it are raised every year.

Wheat and the other cereals are produced, but not in such abundance as corn. Still the tables hereinafter inserted, will show the importance of this production.

Mexican coffee is now well known, and in the last few years a number of plantations have increased, and it is claimed that in Mexico will be able to supply more of that product to the markets of the world than all other countries combined, save only Brazil.

The production of cocoa is now increasing every year, while sugar cane, notwithstanding the great competition to which it has been subjected owing to the increase in the production of sugar beets, still is an inexhaustible source of wealth in Morelos, Veracruz, Puebla, Jalisco, and other states of the Republic.

Mexican tobacco now holds its place among the first in the world, and since 1868 the plant has been cultivated on an extensive scale.

Cotton has been raised in Mexico from the most remote times, and the Aztecs well knew and practised the art of cotton spinning. Although the soil and climate are suited to the production of this fiber, Mexico has to import that staple, as its output is not sufficient to supply the great demands of its factories. There are several cotton belts in the Republic, which are situated in Sonora, Sinaloa, Durango, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Veracruz, and other states.

Vanilla, cochineal, and alfalfa are also products which are successfully raised in Mexico.

In so far as fibers are concerned, the territory of Mexico stands pre-eminent for the richness and abundance of such products. The

## A Few Facts About Mexico

exportation of heniquen, jute, and other fibers, reaches every year enormous figures, and the traffic in them is a source of wealth to Yucatan, Campeche, Sinaloa, Oaxaca, Chiapas, and other states. Among fiber plants we cannot forego mentioning the agave or maguey, which grows most abundantly on the plateaus, and yields a great variety of products from its leaves, roots, and juice, it being claimed that about forty different articles are manufactured from said plant. Among these we may mention pulque, a beverage made from the fermented juice, which is consumed in very large quantity in the City of Mexico and neighboring towns. Mescal or tequila is another alcoholic drink, which is largely produced principally in the states of Jalisco and Coahuila.

About one-fourth of the territory of Mexico is covered with numberless trees and woods for dyeing and construction purposes, and medicinal plants are also to be found throughout the Republic. Mahogany, ebony, rose, cedar, oak, and walnut, and other trees of a similar class, are cut yearly and make a large item in the exportation of the country.

Chewing gum and rubber are also valuable products of the Republic and are successfully obtained in the states of Campeche, Chiapas, Jalisco, Oaxaca, Puebla, Tabasco, Veracruz, and Yucatan, and the Territory of Tepic.

The climate of the high plateaus is well adapted with the aid of irrigation for the cultivation of all fruits; there we find apples, peaches, pears, figs, and apricots produced in abundance. On the slope of the Gulf of Mexico and of the Pacific Ocean we find the region which produces tropical fruits, such as bananas, pineapples, mameyes, chirimoyas, oranges, limes, etc. Of these only the orange is cultivated for export. Of vegetables there is abundant production, though with few exceptions they are consumed in the home market.

The flora of Mexico is extensive, brilliant, and varied. All kinds of flowers are to be found everywhere, and roses, carnations, begonias, camellias, etc., may be procured at the City of Mexico and other cities of the Republic at most reasonable prices.

Cacti and orchids are abundant, and large quantities of them are exported annually.

We now will make reference of some statistical data, which will undoubtedly prove the importance and magnitude of the agricultural resources of the Mexican Republic.

These data we take from the latest "Anuario Estadístico de la Republica Mexicana," issued in 1900 by the Department of Public Promotion, and corresponding to the year 1899. Undoubtedly they under-rate the yearly production of agricultural products, owing to the lack of proper officials to collect information in some localities, and to the desire of land owners to conceal the extent of these products for the purposes of avoiding taxation.

During said year 1899, the total value of agricultural products,

## Agriculture

fermented drinks, and medicinal plants in the Republic was as follows:

Rice .....	\$ 2,209,021
Barley .....	5,591,533
Indian corn .....	72,807,205
Wheat .....	17,607,924
Chickling vetch .....	427,997
Beans .....	7,847,898
Chick-peas .....	1,687,439
Lima beans .....	1,136,485
Lentils .....	98,647
Sweet potatoes .....	369,898
Huacamote .....	49,834
Potatoes .....	1,387,973
Green peppers .....	2,420,563
Dried peppers .....	1,960,307
Sugar .....	13,283,338
Brown sugar .....	5,022,500
Molasses .....	2,246,450
Sesame seed .....	45,502
Peanuts .....	344,674
Linseed .....	172,585
Rum .....	15,748,558
Pulque .....	6,196,703
Unfermented pulque .....	9,292,578
Heniquen .....	33,227,203
Ixtle .....	808,621
Cotton .....	4,679,628
Grape brandy .....	139,064
Grape wine .....	307,225
Indigo .....	35,826
Brazil .....	145,656
Campeachey .....	266,507
Cascalote .....	59,092
Tanning bark .....	1,557,091
Cocoa .....	689,907
Coffee .....	11,065,657
Tobacco .....	2,038,897
Vanilla .....	868,967
Chewing gum .....	502,471
India rubber .....	272,821
Mezquite gum .....	9,523
Cocoa gum .....	9,062
Jalap .....	15,830
Sarsaparilla .....	7,464

The exportation of agricultural products is quite large, the aggregate value of such exportation being \$4,046,854.41 for April, 1901, the latest month whereof reliable statistical data are at hand. The principal items of such exports were coffee, woods, tobacco, heniquen, and ixtle.

## A Few Facts About Mexico

Furthermore, we will state that the aggregate values of the exportation of agricultural products for the fiscal years beginning with 1892-93 and ending with 1899-1900, were as follows:

1892-93 .....	\$24,858,887
1893-94 .....	26,689,978
1894-95 .....	27,999,998
1895-96 .....	25,907,196
1896-97 .....	28,684,389
1897-98 .....	34,743,290
1898-99 .....	40,371,661
1899-1900 .....	50,939,474

Thus in eight years the exportation of agricultural products has more than doubled. The figures above given more than sufficiently attest the growth and prosperity of Mexican agriculture.



General View Exterior of Agriculture Exhibit  
Agriculture Building  
Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition



## IX

# Manufactures

Mexico cannot be classed among the manufacturing countries, and until some years ago only raw materials were supposed to be produced and raised successfully in the Republic. However, about ten years ago the country entered into an era of industrial prosperity, and manufacturing sprang up everywhere throughout the land. This was due to the permanent peace the country is enjoying, the increase in its railroad mileage, the wise and enlightened administration of public affairs, the liberal laws enacted to encourage foreign capital, and other causes, among which the depreciation of silver may be set down as an all important one.

Cotton factories are to be found in various states, some with most extensive plants and employing a large number of operatives. In July, 1900 there were 134 of such factories in active operation throughout the Republic, which gave employment to 27,767 persons; their sales during the fiscal year terminating July 30, 1899, amounted to the sum of \$18,460,348.19. The profits of some of those factories reached as high as forty per cent per annum on the investment.

Woolen mills are also established in various states as Aguascalientes, Durango, Guanajuato, Puebla, and others, and there splendid woolen blankets and cassimeres are made. The zarapes, or woolen blankets, have achieved considerable reputation, especially those of Saltillo and San Miguel.

Silk weaving may be considered as a growing industry, which in time will become most important. Already, manufactured articles from Mexican silks have found quick sales.

The jute manufactured products, such as cordage, ropes, sacks, etc., are daily finding great favor.

Paper mills are profitable investments owing to this industry being protected by the tariff. The oldest paper mill in the Republic is situated at Cocolapan, near Orizaba, but the more modern mills in the Federal District, Puebla, Jalisco, etc., have greatly improved this industry.

There are many flour mills in the Republic, but their output is not sufficient to supply the local demand.

Hammock making is one of the industries, which, especially in Yucatan, has attained considerable proportions, and a great part of the product is exported to the United States.

There are a great many foundries in the Republic, and some of them turn out excellent work. It may be here appropriate to state



## A Few Facts About Mexico

that the government has a large arsenal and gun foundry at the capital, where arms and all kinds of first class munitions of war are made. Though type founding is in its infancy, we may say that printing materials are made for home consumption, though the greater part of the type in use is imported.

Perhaps one of the industries which is more generally carried on in every state is that of pottery manufacture. The leading cities in that industry are Guadalajara, Puebla, Zacatecas and Guanajuato. Crockery for table use is also manufactured in Mexico, and glassware likewise to some extent.

The manufacture of acids and chemical compounds is attaining great importance, especially in the Federal District.

Chocolate, which is a favorite beverage throughout Mexico, is manufactured in establishments, some of which have large capital invested in this industry.

Tanneries exist in many places and the leather made is of good quality. Mexican workers in leather have gained a well-deserved reputation for the articles they manufacture, saddles especially. The City of Leon is one of the principal centers of this industry.

The collection and exportation of hides, skins, and leathers is an industry which has attained considerable importance.

The manufacture of felt hats is carried on in all cities, while straw and palm hats are made everywhere in the Republic. The articles turned out at some hat factories in the cities of Mexico, Puebla, and Guadalajara can well compete with the best imported articles of a similar character.

There are several furniture factories in the Republic, but the demand for such articles is so great that large quantities are yearly imported.

Rubber factories, electrical plants, soap, brick, artificial stone, varnish, and starch factories are already established and yearly their number increase, as the demand for their output is very large, and the profit derived from their establishment is so alluring and solid.

Several smelting works are now in operation, and the capital invested in them amounts up to millions of dollars.

Cigar and cigarette factories are numerous, especially in the states of Puebla, Guanajuato, Veracruz, and the Federal District. This industry is a most profitable one. From July, 1900, to April, 1901, inclusive, a period of ten months, there were manufactured in the Republic 5,019,820 kilograms of cigarettes, and the number of cigars made was 95,534,544. In April, 1901, there were 745 cigar and cigarette factories in the Republic. The rapid advancement of this industry is shown by the notable increase in the taxes paid by the factories to the government. The amount so paid for the fiscal year 1896-97 was \$1,161,480.12; for 1897-98, \$1,280,729.52; for 1898-99, \$1,395,212.17, and for 1899-1900, \$1,551,447.15.

## Manufactures

Beer and ale manufacturing is also making rapid strides, and in 1899 there were seventy-two factories of that beverage in the Republic.

During the fiscal year of 1898-99, there were 2211 establishments devoted to the manufacture of spirits from maguey, grapes, sugar cane, grains, etc., and their output was 39,311,731 liters.

The pearl industry is quite important in the Territory of Lower California; while sponge, abalone, and other shells are collected in various parts of the Republic; tortoise fishing having also become an industry of some importance.

Mexico is known the world over for the success attained by its people in what may be styled distinctively Mexican industries, such as drawn work, filigree jewelry, feather work, rag and wax figure, tecali fruits, paper weights, inkstands, etc. Such articles now find a ready market abroad, and their exportation is yearly increasing.

The raising of cattle is another most important industry in the Republic, and in the northern states and Veracruz and Michoacan great advancement has been made in that line.

During the year 1899, there were slaughtered for home consumption 764,935 cattle, 790,148 sheep, 617,124 goats, and 659,334 hogs, no reference being had to the consumption of the states of Chihuahua and Chiapas, as the information relative to the same was not at hand when the above totals were prepared. During the six months comprised from January to July, 1900, the exportation of live stock from the Republic was as follows:

1,904 horses, valued at.....	\$ 67,000
1,331 sheep and goats, valued at....	45,002
647 hogs, valued at.....	3,575
725 mules, valued at.....	34,160
83,759 cattle, valued at.....	2,203,075

The above figures show how large is the exportation of Mexican cattle. During that same period, the value of the importation of animals of all kinds to the Republic only amounted to \$246,291.

Let us finally say that manufacturing industries in Mexico have received lately a great impetus through the utilization of water power under liberal concessions from the Federal Government.





Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition

**Mines and Liberal Arts Exhibit  
Mexican Building**

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## X

# Commerce and Finance

The growth of Mexican commerce since the advent of General Diaz to the presidency, and especially since the year 1893, has been really wonderful. The official figures as to exportations of the Republic, and the increase in the revenues of the government, without additional taxation, as well as the great increment of wealth throughout the country, plainly and unequivocally corroborate that statement.

The duties collected for importations since 1893, paid in Mexican silver, of course, were as follows:

Year 1893-94 .....	\$15,313,926.59
“ 1894-95 .....	17,738,129.66
“ 1895-96 .....	21,492,211.91
“ 1896-97 .....	21,481,225.93
“ 1897-98 .....	20,963,442.63
“ 1898-99 .....	26,443,847.66
“ 1899-1900 .....	27,696,979.06

While the value of such importations declared in gold, was as follows:

1893-94 .....	\$30,287,489
1894-95 .....	34,000,400
1895-96 .....	42,253,938
1896-97 .....	42,204,095
1897-98 .....	43,603,492
1898-99 .....	50,869,194
1899-1900 .....	50,869,194
1899-1900 .....	61,318,175

Thus it is that the value of the importations has doubled in a period of seven years.

If we now examine the figures relative to the values of the article sent abroad by Mexico, we will notice the same rapid increase. The total exportations, which were declared in Mexican silver, were as follows:

1893-94 .....	\$ 79,343,287
1894-95 .....	90,854,953
1895-96 .....	105,016,902
1896-97 .....	111,346,494
1897-98 .....	128,972,749
1898-99 .....	148,453,834
1899-1900 .....	158,247,933

These last figures likewise show that the exportations have doubled in the said period of seven years.

Let us now examine into the class of articles which are mostly imported into the Republic, and for that purpose we take the following

## A Few Facts About Mexico

official figures corresponding to the fiscal year of 1899-1900. They are as follows:

Animal industry .....	\$4,359,923
Agricultural products .....	8,367,184
Metals and their manufacture .....	16,555,522
Fabrics (cotton, wool, etc.) .....	9,928,361
Chemical products, drugs, oils, and paints .....	2,450,028
Wines, liquors, fermented and unfer- mented drinks .....	2,809,986
Paper and its manufactures.....	2,126,630
Machinery and apparatus .....	9,843,880
Carriages and wagons .....	1,392,847
Arms and explosives .....	1,715,575
Sundries .....	1,768,239
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$61,318,175</b>

The exportations in that fiscal year may also be distributed as follows:

Metals and their manufactures....	\$ 84,988,592
Vegetable products .....	50,939,474
Animal industry .....	10,633,713
Manufactured articles .....	2,813,687
Sundries .....	680,914
To which is to be added the premium on the gold exported...	8,191,573
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$158,247,933</b>

During that same year the countries whose commerce was most active with Mexico, were the following:

Countries.	Importations.	Exportations.
United States and colonies.	\$31,026,435	\$116,105,935
England and colonies .....	10,973,757	12,659,757
France and colonies.....	6,763,398	6,637,765
Germany .....	6,673,846	5,049,487
Cuba .....	49,637	5,882,029
Spain .....	2,919,162	912,173
Belgium .....	802,374	1,926,103
Italy .....	463,224	83,657
Austria .....	414,983	30,000
Holland and colonies .....	189,511	237,912
Guatemala .....	32,849	238,996

Thus it may be said that over half of the imported articles Mexico receives come from the United States, and that the latter country absorbs about three-fourths of the exports of the Mexican Republic.

During the said fiscal year the arrivals and departures of vessels at Mexican ports, whether doing an international traffic or coastwise trade, was as follows:

Arrivals—Steamers .....	5,232
“ Sailing vessels .....	3,815
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>9,047</b>

## Commerce and Finance

Departures—Steamers .....	5,112
“ Sailing vessels .....	3,801

Total ..... 8,903

And the tonnage of the merchandise carried by said vessels was:

Exportation .....	1,076,676 tons
Importation .....	412,985 “
Coastwise trade .....	350,985 “

Total ..... 1,840,646, tons

The traffic by rail along the northern frontier, that is, to and from the United States, was the following during said fiscal year of 1899-1900:

Arrivals....	47,592 cars, carrying.....	645,953 tons
Departures.	24,471 cars, carrying.....	242,550 tons

If we now look into Mexican finances, we may state without fear of contradiction that their present condition is most prosperous and satisfactory.

In the able report presented by Secretary Limantour to the Chamber of Deputies in December, 1900, we find the following statement as to the revenues of the fiscal year of 1899-1900, subdivided into four groups or classes:

### I. Foreign Commerce Taxes.

Import duties .....	\$27,696,979.06
Export duties .....	872,996.00
Two per cent for port investments.....	550,963.74
Special port taxes .....	419,718.32
Sailing licenses .....	704.00
Pilot's dues .....	17,483.05
Health office receipts .....	77,157.51
Consular fees .....	298,173.67
Consular and diplomatic certificates abroad .....	11,617.69

Total ..... \$29,945,793.04

### II. Interior Federal Taxes.

#### Stamp tax comprising—

Regular stamps.....	\$8,968,326.33
Federal tax .....	6,401,755.51
Seven per cent on imports .....	2,086,977.69
Mining tax .....	814,044.20
Three per cent on gold and silver ...	2,309,239.20
Real estate tax .....	10,063.00
Manufactured tobacco .....	1,395,212.17
Spirits .....	880,926.93
Cotton yarn and fabrics .....	1,367,660.98
Sundries .....	96,439.29
Mintage dues and charges .....	1,367,660.98
Patent and trade mark dues .....	6,520.00

Total ..... \$26,201,406.14



## A Few Facts About Mexico

### III. Interior, District and Territorial Taxes.

Direct taxes on real estate, professions, business houses, flour and pulque..	\$2,947,393.34
Inheritance tax .....	332,921.66
Other taxes .....	315.91
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,280,630.91</b>

### IV. Public Services and Minor Sources.

Postal service .....	\$1,860,105.86
Telegraph service .....	1,087,520.34
Tehuantepec Railway .....	106,025.80
Lottery and sundries .....	1,779,594.30
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$4,833,246.30</b>

The above gives a grand total of revenue of \$64,261,076.39 for the said fiscal year.

The progressive increase in the revenues of the Mexican Government has been as follows:

Fiscal year 1895-96 .....	\$50,521,470.42
“ “ 1896-97 .....	51,500,628.75
“ “ 1897-98 .....	52,697,981.55
“ “ 1898-99 .....	60,139,212.84
“ “ 1899-1900 .....	64,261,076.39

The estimated expenditures for the year 1900-01, as proposed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and then modified by the Chamber of Deputies in May, 1901, are as follows:

Legislative power .....	\$1,130,983.30
Executive power .....	183,986.84
Judicial power .....	537,368.20
Department of Foreign Relations.....	755,127.25
Department of the Interior .....	4,852,778.10
Department of Justice and Public In- struction .....	2,889,677.50
Department of Promotion, Colonization and Industry .....	996,686.16
Department of Communications and Public Works .....	8,699,840.09
Department of Finance and Public Credit .....	28,205,411.55
Department of War and Navy .....	14,023,242.84
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$62,275,101.83</b>

Since 1895, there has always been a balance left in the treasury at the end of every fiscal year after all expenses have been paid. The accumulated balances at the end of the fiscal year of 1899-90 amounted to the large sum of \$31,799,921.14. These figures satisfactorily prove the healthy condition of the public treasury in the Mexican Republic.

The public debt of Mexico was as follows at the end of the fiscal year of 1899-1900:



**Front View of Manufactures Exhibit**  
**Manufactures and Liberal Arts Building**  
**Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition**



## Commerce and Finance

Debt payable in gold .....	\$115,178,612.00
Debt payable in silver .....	123,118,982.20
Floating debt payable in silver and bearing no interest .....	1,015,836.24
	<hr/> \$239,313,430.44

The interest on the public debt has always been punctually paid, even in those years, now fortunately gone by, when some difficulties were experienced in meeting all the expenses of the government. The foreign gold bearing debt, through a skillful operation of the Secretary of the Treasury, was lately converted into a five per cent loan, while formerly the government securities issued on account of said debt were bearing six per cent.

In connection with the finances of the country, we may take a cursory glance into coinage, currency, and banking in Mexico. Owing to the liberal provisions of the laws of Mexico, the production of precious metals has greatly increased. A portion of the output of the mines is exported, while the rest, with exception of whatever may be used in the arts, is coined at the various mints of the Republic. These were first established in 1537. Up to seven years ago there were thirteen mints in the country, but owing to increased facilities for the transportation of bullion and for other reasons, the number of such establishments has been reduced to four; one is situated at the City of Mexico; another at Guanajuato; a third one at Zacatecas; and still another at Culiacan. Besides these, there are government assay offices at various other cities of the Republic.

During the fiscal year of 1899-1900 the coinage effected by the mints amounted to \$18,723,726, while the value of the exportation of gold, silver, and copper in money, bars, and in ores, amounted to \$80,888,926.

Practically there is no gold in circulation in the Republic, the circulating medium being silver and copper fractionary coins and bank notes issued by banks duly authorized for such purposes. Their paper is not legal tender, and it is covered by large deposits of coins. The government issues no paper money.

On the 30th day of April, 1901, there were twenty-four banks in operation in the Republic, duly organized under the banking laws. Their financial standing was as follows:

ASSETS.	
Unsubscribed capital .....	\$5,452,450.00
Cash on hand .....	56,429,472.46
Bills receivable .....	91,712,252.36
Loans and personal property .....	34,474,676.29
Hypothecary loans .....	10,076,450.89
Loans on real estate .....	3,027,436.59
Public funds .....	3,070,324.35
Current debts or accounts .....	52,115,844.85
Real estate .....	1,953,235.47
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$258,312,143.24

## A Few Facts About Mexico

### LIABILITIES.

Authorized capital .....	\$77,300,000.00
Bills in circulation .....	61,855,281.25
Mortgage bonds in circulation .....	8,611,600.00
Cash bonds in circulation .....	709,300.00
Sight deposits .....	4,317,265.25
Other deposits .....	6,795,876.05
Current credit accounts .....	\$4,998,968.10
Reserve fund .....	10,271,335.93
Surplus fund .....	2,452,516.66
Total .....	\$258,312,143.24

The four principal banks of the Republic are the National Bank of Mexico, the International and Mortgage Bank, the London and Mexico Bank and the Central Bank, having their main offices at the City of Mexico and branch offices in different cities of the Republic. The oldest banking institution is the Monte de Piedad (National Loan Office), which was established in 1775. In former times it could issue notes; at present it merely effects loans on pledges, at moderate rates of interest, under supervision of the government, and does a business of more than \$1,000,000, distributed among 60,000 persons.

The banking institutions now in operation in the Republic are in a most flourishing condition, but the demand for increased facilities are so great and legal provisions relative to such institutions are of so liberal a nature, that new banks are being established in various parts of the Republic, and the business of the old ones is increasing very rapidly.

## XI

# Means of Communication

It was in 1873 that the entire line of the Mexican Railway, from Veracruz to the City of Mexico, was inaugurated; but what may be called the "railroad era" of the Mexican Republic did not really begin until General Diaz became President, in 1876. From 1877 to 1882 Mexico constructed more miles of railways than any other Latin American country, and thereafter the increase in railroad mileage has been steady and uninterrupted.

At the end of 1896 there were 11,469 kilometers of road, or 7,053 miles, while at the present time the railway lines aggregate 15,454 kilometers, or say 9,600 miles. In 1897 the number of passengers carried was 27,470,296; in 1898, 30,809,624; and in 1899, 36,037,447; while the freight transported amounted in 1897 to 5,936,852 tons; in 1898 to 6,329,029 tons; and in 1899 to 7,267,067 tons. The gross earnings of the roads were \$36,747,658.12 in 1897, \$40,225,981.95 in 1898, and \$46,374,334.94 in 1899. Most of the roads were built, after obtaining large subsidies from the Government, ranging from \$6,000 to \$10,000 per kilometer.

At the present time, the railway system of Mexico connects the capital with the leading cities of the Republic, also with some of the most important seaports on the Gulf of Mexico, and with the United States. In point of fact now the trip by rail from Buffalo, New York or Washington to the City of Mexico, or other principal Mexican cities, is as rapid, safe, commodious and agreeable as a trip to some of the western cities or those of the Pacific Coast of the United States.

The leading railways of the Republic are:

The Mexican Railway, broad-gauge, which, as already stated, was the first road built in Mexico. It has branches to Puebla and Pachuca, and is considered one of the most picturesque roads in the world, especially the portion comprised between Veracruz and Orizaba.

The Mexican Central is the longest road, the whole of the main line connecting El Paso, Texas, with the City of Mexico, was opened to traffic in April, 1884. Since then branches have been built to Guadalajara, Ameca, San Luis Potosi, Tampico, and Pachuca. It crosses some of the most important states, and reaches Chihuahua, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, Leon, Trapatto, Celaya, Queretaro, Guadalajara, San Luis Potosi, Tampico, Pachuca, and other important cities.

The Interoceanic Railway is a narrow-gauge road which ultimately will connect Veracruz and Acapulco. It has completed the

## A Few Facts About Mexico

road from Veracruz to the City of Mexico, passing through Puebla and Jalapa, and has built a portion from the capital towards Acapulco.

The Mexican National Railroad, also narrow-gauge, is the shortest line between the City of Mexico and the United States, which it enters at Laredo. Corpus Christi, Texas, is the northern terminus of the line. It has branches to Patzcuaro, El Salto, and other points.

The Mexican International Railway is a broad-gauge line, built without a subsidy, and commences at Ciudad Porfirio Diaz, opposite Eagle Pass, Texas. It reached Torreon in 1888, and was completed to the City of Durango in October, 1892. It has also several branches.

The Monterey and Mexican Gulf Railway, now owned by a Belgian company, extends from Trevino in the State of Coahuila and goes as far as Tampico, passing through Monterey and Ciudad Victoria.

The Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railway, which also it is intended shall reach Acapulco, has gone beyond Cuernavaca, and is also considered a most picturesque road. In point of fact the scenery along most of the railroads in Mexico is most interesting and attractive.

The National Interoceanic Tehuantepec Railroad connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, its termini being the Port of Salina Cruz on the Pacific Ocean and that of Coatzacoalcor on the Gulf of Mexico. It is being rebuilt and repaired by an English company, and the two ports mentioned are being improved at great expense.

There are other railways, especially in the State of Yucatan, which might be described if our limited space would permit it. All those lines, and the new ones to be constructed, are regulated by the new railway law promulgated April 29, 1899.

All the leading cities of the Republic have street car lines or tramways. These are very extensive in the Federal District, where electric traction was inaugurated in 1900. In December, 1898, there were over 501 kilometers of said tramway lines in the Republic.

There is no state capital or fairly important town in Mexico which is not connected by telegraph with the outside world. The telegraph services may be divided into federal telegraph lines, railway telegraphs, lines belonging to private individuals or companies, and state lines. On January 1, 1900, the entire telegraph system, in round numbers, was as follows:

	Kilometers.
Federal lines .....	45,103
State lines .....	8,557
Private lines .....	3,690
Railroad lines .....	11,198
Total .....	68,548

That is a grand total of over 68,500 kilometers, or 42,538 miles.



Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition

Liberal Arts Exhibit  
Mexican Building





## Means of Communication

In December, 1900, the extension of the federal lines amounted to 45,740 kilometers and the increase in revenue from that branch of the service had been remarkable. The number of messages lately transmitted through said lines had been:

Fiscal year of 1896-97.....	1,559,450
Fiscal year of 1897-98.....	1,765,758
Fiscal year of 1898-99.....	1,978,280
Fiscal year of 1899-1900.....	2,241,859

Mexico has also an efficient cable service which places it in direct communication with the United States and Europe.

Telephone service in the Republic is excellent. On January 1, 1900, the total extent of the telephonic system in Mexico, in round numbers, was as follows:

	Kilometers.
State city lines .....	914
State suburban lines .....	7,040
Private city lines .....	3,740
Private suburban lines .....	6,630
Mexican Telephone Company .....	3,260
Railroad telephones .....	1,739
Private suburban lines, for private use.....	7,005
Total .....	30,328

Thus giving a total of 30,328 kilometers, or say 18,834 miles.

Since 1877 the establishment of steamship lines has been greatly encouraged by granting special concessions or subsidies. In January, 1899, there were twenty-three steamship lines having contracts with the Government for carrying mails, of which eleven were Mexican, five American, four English, one Spanish, one German, and one French. The leading ports of the Republic are therefore in constant and rapid communication with the principal countries of Europe and America.

The postal service in the Republic is now very efficient, and has been greatly improved from year to year. The following data will fully prove this statement:

In 1896, there were 1,500 postoffices in the Republic, while in 1900 the number of such offices was 1,972.

The movement of interior postal matter has been as follows:

	Pieces.
Fiscal year, 1896-97 .....	77,819,334
Fiscal year, 1897-98 .....	86,821,020
Fiscal year, 1898-99 .....	92,189,270
Fiscal year, 1899-1900 .....	99,714,426

While the international postal service was as follows:

	Pieces.
Fiscal year, 1896-97 .....	23,483,863
Fiscal year, 1897-98 .....	26,024,464
Fiscal year, 1898-99 .....	30,256,582
Fiscal year, 1899-1900 .....	34,922,683

## A Few Facts About Mexico

The revenues of that branch of the public service have likewise increased, and were as follows:

Fiscal year, 1896-97 .....	\$1,247,144.22
Fiscal year, 1897-98 .....	1,407,178.05
Fiscal year, 1898-99 .....	1,596,477.10
Fiscal year, 1899-1900 .....	1,871,098.44

Of course, the service of certified letters, parcels, and postal money orders (the latter having been extended to the United States in January, 1900,) is well established and gives most satisfactory results. The postal orders transmitted in the Republic during the fiscal year of 1896-97 amounted to \$924,406.89; in 1897-98 to \$1,212,217.82; in 1898-99 to \$3,323,510.63; while in 1899-1900, they rose to \$5,112,388.37.

Finally, we may state that in December, 1900, the extension of all postal routes was 91,048 kilometers, or 56,540 miles.

## XII

# Public Instruction—Religion—Arts and Sciences—Army and Navy

Public instruction has made rapid strides in the Mexican Republic during the past few years, and more especially since 1897, when the law making compulsory education went into effect. Under that law primary elementary education in the Federal District and the territories was placed under the exclusive control of the Executive, preparatory education was made uniform for all professions and professional education was reorganized making it only relate to such technical matters as pertain to the professions to which each special establishment is devoted. In the states the state governments defray the expenses of public education either with funds appropriated for that purpose or with the funds of municipalities.

The following statistical data shows the condition of public education throughout the Republic on January 1, 1900:

Number of schools .....	9,271
Students enrolled .....	669,941
Average monthly attendance .....	463,095

As to private educational establishments, we have the following figures for that same date:

Number of schools .....	2,560
Students enrolled .....	134,987
Average monthly attendance .....	103,955

The total expenses made for the support of federal, state and municipal schools in 1899 amounted to \$4,720,062.

The Federal Government, beside maintaining in the City of Mexico and in the territories a large number of primary normal schools, has under its control most important institutions for professional education and technical schools. To those existing in the capital of the Republic we shall now make passing reference.

The National School of Medicine, whose organization dates back from 1768, is now housed in the building occupied by the Inquisition before the establishment of the Republic. This school has the reputation of being one of the best institutions of its class. The National School of Engineering, formerly called the School of Mines, partly occupies the magnificent building which contains the offices of the Department of Promotion, and that was erected at a cost of three millions of dollars. This educational establishment is among the best

## A Few Facts About Mexico

in the Latin-American Republics. The National Conservatory of Music and Elocution occupies the edifice of the first university in America, founded by the Spanish Kings in 1551. The National Academy of Fine Arts, formerly called the Academy of San Carlos, stands where Fray Pedro de Grante established, in 1524, the first school of the New World. The National Preparatory School, with its numerous students, serves as the threshold to all professional studies. The National School of Jurisprudence is also one of the institutions which worthily fulfils the object of its organization. We may also mention the National School of Commerce and Administration, the School for the Blind, the School for the Deaf and Dumb, and several reformatory and industrial schools, etc., which fully demonstrate the extent and importance of professional education in the capital of the Republic. And here we may add that in the various states there are also public educational institutions where all may follow a professional career, free of charge, and under competent instructors.

Among other institutions pertaining to or connected with the branch of public education, we may state that on January 1, 1900, there were throughout the Republic thirty-three museums, one hundred and thirty-five libraries, forty scientific and literary associations and seven hundred and two periodical publications, distributed as follows: Federal District, 202; State of Aguascalientes, 8; Lower California, —; Campeche, 4; Coahuila, 20; Colima, 11; Chiapas, 5; Chihuahua, 29; Durango, 17; Guanajuato, 28; Guerrero, 3; Hidalgo, 4; Jalisco, 58; Mexico, 17; Michoacan, 36; Morelos, 4; Nuevo Leon, 21; Oaxaca, 11; Puebla, 25; Queretaro, 1; San Luis Potosi, 15; Sinaloa, 9; Sonora, 18; Tabasco, 18; Tamaulipas, 27; Tepic, 8; Tlaxcala, 1; Veracruz, 48; Yucatan, 36; and Zacatecas 14. Of such publications six hundred and fifty-nine are printed in the Spanish language; twenty-one in English; four in French; one in German; sixteen in English and Spanish; and one in several languages; there being sixty-four dailies, three hundred and twenty-seven weeklies, one hundred and nineteen monthlies, and the rest published at various other stated periods.

As is well known, the prevailing religion in the Mexican Republic is the Roman Catholic, but there is no connection between church and state, and the Federal Constitution guarantees the free exercise of all religions. Many of the buildings erected by the Catholic clergy, both before and after the colonial period, are splendid specimens of architecture and their interiors are magnificently decorated, the cathedrals of the City of Mexico, of Puebla, of Guadalajara, and others, being among the most admirable structures of their class in the American continent. Statistics show that there are 10,112 Catholic churches and chapels in the Republic and that the number of Protestant places of worship is 119.

The army in Mexico has lately attained a high degree of discipline and efficiency, due to the proper re-organization given to it during the administration of President Diaz. Furthermore, the Department of

## Public Instruction — Religion — Arts and Sciences, etc.

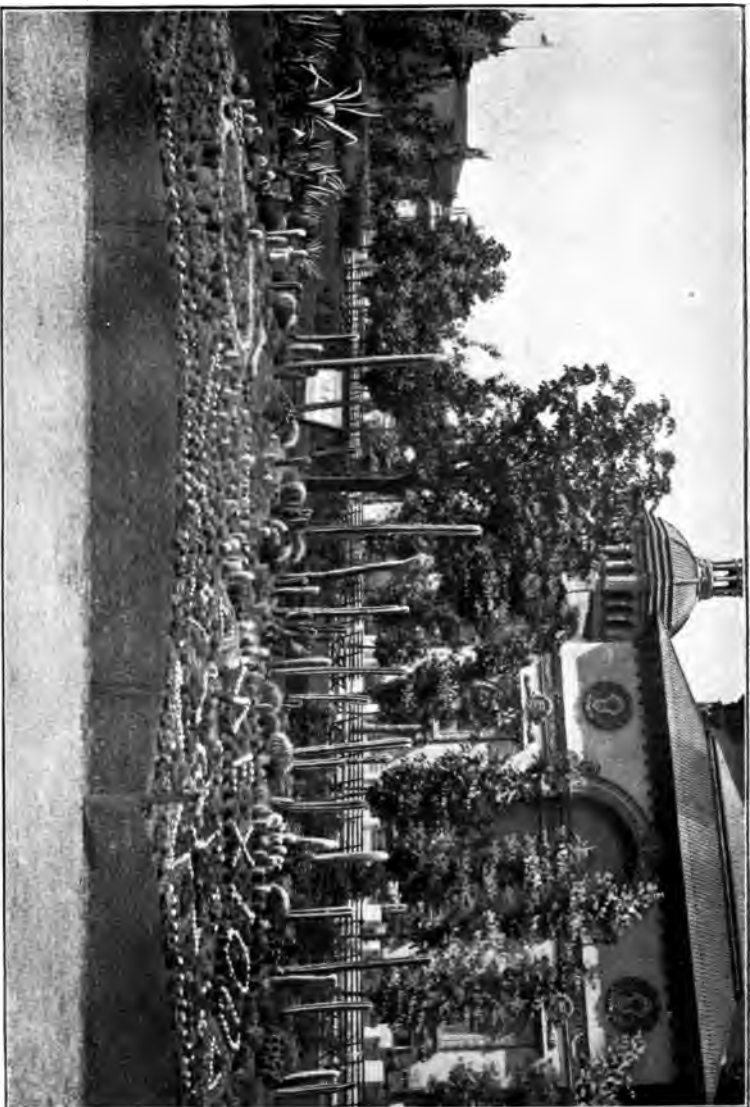
War and Navy, under the able direction of Secretary Bernardo Reyes, has recently introduced many notable improvements in the service.

In 1899 the personnel of the regular army was as follows:

Generals .....	62
Commissioned officers .....	944
Non-commissioned officers .....	2,471
Soldiers .....	27,247
Total .....	30,724

The navy consists only of several gun boats, lighthouse dispatches and training ships.





Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition

Cactus Exhibit  
Southern Ground Portion of the Horticulture Building





### XIII

## Laws of Special Interest to Foreigners

To the colonist, to the settler, and to the investor, some of the most important laws of Mexico are those which relate to the acquisition of public lands, to colonization, and to patents and trade marks. It may therefore be not amiss to take a cursory glance at such legislation.

All lands in the Republic which have not been duly dedicated to public use, or that have not been granted as a lien or for a pecuniary consideration to some individual or corporation authorized to acquire such property, are public lands, and any inhabitant of the Republic has the right to claim up to two thousand, five hundred hectares, and no more, of such lands, excepting persons born in countries along the boundaries of the Republic, and those naturalized therein, who cannot acquire them in the state bounded thereon. The Supreme Government publishes every two years the price of public lands in each state, district, and territory. The price of public lands is to be paid, two-thirds in cash and the rest in bonds of the public national or foreign debt. There are certain cases specified in the law in which a reduction may be made on the price of public lands. Owners of public lands are obliged to keep in some place within their property, and during ten years computed from the time when they were granted, an inhabitant at least for each two hundred hectares granted. Petitions for claims of public lands should be presented to the judge of first instance who has jurisdiction of federal cases in the judicial district wherein the public lands may be situated. When the petition is presented, the survey and plot shall be made by a professional expert, or by a practical expert, if the former is wanting, who may be appointed by the judge. After the survey and plat of the land shall have been made, an investigation shall take place at the office, under whose jurisdiction such public lands may be, to ascertain whether the Government is in full possession of the land claimed. If it should be, and no contestant appears, the adjudication and ownership of the property shall be decreed to the claimant, without further proceedings; but if there be a contestant, the judicial proceedings pending between the claimant and the contestant shall first be decided; a representative of the Federal Treasury to be likewise a party to such proceedings. If the Government should not have possession of the public lands, the claim or denouncement shall be published three times—once every ten days—in the newspapers and by notices fixed in

## A Few Facts About Mexico

public places. If no contestant appears, the adjudication of the property should be decreed, not as absolute property, but as by possessory title; but if a contestant appears, proper proceedings must be previously instituted as between the claimant and the contestant, a representative of the Federal Treasury likewise to appear as a party to the proceedings. A judicial decree relating to the adjudication or concession of public lands whether for possessory title or ownership, shall not be carried into effect until it is first approved by the Department of Public Promotion. When such approval is obtained, and the party concerned has presented a certificate showing that he has paid into the corresponding office the value of the land, in conformity with the price list or schedule of the two-year period within which the claim was made, the judge shall cause to be delivered to him the land and the titles of ownership or possession. The adjudication and delivery of possession gives ownership as well against the Government as against the contestants who may have appeared in the litigation; but as far as third parties are concerned the ownership in this class of judgments or adjudication, can only be acquired by limitation or other legal title.

Any suspension in the proceedings instituted by virtue of the denouncement or claim, due to the fault of the claimant, whether it should consist in not making the necessary expenses, in remaining absent without leaving an attorney under pay, in not pushing the proceedings which should be instituted, or in any other way, shall give right to the contestant to ask that a time be set, which shall not exceed six days, within which such proceedings shall be prosecuted. If that is not done, it shall be decreed that the claim has been abandoned and the dilatory claimant shall not be able to claim the same public lands again. If no motion is made by the contestant, the judge on his own motion shall set the time already mentioned.

The expenses of measurements, survey, delivery of possession, and any other that may be incurred, shall be on account of the claimant. It may be stated that public lands are classified as follows:

Lands of the first class are those which, owing to their situation and favorable elements for agriculture or operation of some industry, deserve to be considered as such; that is, lands adjoining towns of some importance, or to railroads, or rivers; those which may be irrigated and are suitable for an easy and remunerative cultivation; those having trees of precious woods; those having orchilla or some dyeing productions, and those containing minerals or salts. Lands of the second class are those of a single crop, those that are more distant than those of the first class from means of communication, and those that are suitable for cattle raising, or that can be rendered productive with little cost, be it for agriculture or for any other industry. And lands of the third class are those that, owing to their inferiority, be it through the quality of the land, or for their great distance from

## **Laws of Special Interest to Foreigners**

means of communication, or from the centers of consumption, or through their situation exposed to inundations, cannot be considered as comprised within the first and second classes.

The law of colonization contains equally liberal provisions. They are substantially as follows:

In order to be considered a colonist and have the right to the franchises granted by the law, it is necessary that the foreign immigrant shall bring to the Republic a certificate of the consular agent of immigration executed at the request of the very immigrant, or of the company or corporation authorized by the Executive to bring colonists to the Republic. The petitioners must present certificates of the appropriate authorities, certifying to their good habits and the occupation which they may have followed before making their petition to be admitted as colonists.

Colonists shall enjoy for a period of ten years, computed from the date of their establishment, the following exemptions: From military service; from all kinds of taxes, except municipal; from the duties of importation and interior dues on provisions, wherever there shall not be any, agricultural implements, tools, machines, materials of construction for dwellings, furniture in use, and animals for breeding and procreation purposes, intended for the colonies; from the exportation duties on the fruits that they may gather; and from the payment of fees for the legalization of signatures and issuance of passports issued by consular agents. Such colonists are also entitled to premiums for notable labors and bounties and special protection for the introduction of new methods of cultivation or new industries. The Department of Public Promotion shall determine the amount and kind of articles that in each case may be introduced free from the payment of duties, and the Treasury Department shall regulate the manner of making the importations.

Colonies shall be established under the municipal system, subject however as to the election of their authorities and as to the levying and collecting taxes, to the general laws of the Republic and of the states where they may be at the time.

Every foreign immigrant who may settle in a colony shall declare, prior to his settling, before a federal agent of colonization or before a competent notary or judge, whether he has the intention of preserving his nationality, or whether he desires to be naturalized. Colonists shall be considered as having all the rights and obligations that in their case the Federal Constitution grants or imposes on Mexicans and foreigners, and enjoy the temporary exemptions that the law gives them; but in all questions that may arise, they shall be subject to the decision of the courts of the Republic with the entire exclusion of any foreign interference.

Colonists may acquire lands, not to exceed two thousand, five hundred hectares, under the following conditions:

## A Few Facts About Mexico

I. By sale, at the price of appraisalment, made by the engineers and approved by the Department of Public Promotion, payable in installments in ten years, beginning from the second year after the establishment of the colonist. II. By sale, upon the payment of the full price in cash, or in shorter stated terms than those above stated. III. As a gift, when the colonist shall demand it, but in that case the amount of land shall not exceed one hundred hectares, nor shall he obtain the title of ownership unless he proves that he has held it in his possession and has cultivated the whole or not less than one-tenth of its extent during five consecutive years.

Colonists who may abandon, without duly justified cause, for more than one year, and before they may have paid for, the lands that shall have been granted to them by sale, shall lose the right to said lands and to the portion of the purchase price that they may have advanced, and in case of the lands being granted as a gift, the right to a free title shall be lost, by abandoning the land or leaving it without cultivation for a period of six months, without a justified cause.

In places dedicated by the Federal Government to new towns, there shall be granted free one lot to the Mexican or foreign colonist who may wish to establish himself thereon, as founder, but he will not acquire the ownership of said lot until he shall justify that before the two years of his settlement he had built a dwelling thereon; otherwise he shall lose the right of ownership.

The Executive may assist the colonists or immigrants, as deemed convenient, with reference to the expenses of their transportation and their baggage, and may provide them with tools, seeds, materials for construction, and animals for labor and breeding purposes.

The Executive may authorize companies for the measurement, survey, subdivision, appraisalment, and description of public lands, and for the transportation of colonists and their settlement in the same lands. These companies shall always be considered as Mexicans and must have their place of domicile in some one of the cities of the Republic, without prejudice to their having offices abroad, and are obliged to establish a part of their Board of Directors in Mexico or to have one or more representatives in the Republic fully empowered to enter into agreements with the Executive and all questions that may arise between the Government and the companies shall be settled by the courts of the Republic and in conformity with its laws, without there being any rights of foreign diplomatic interference. The companies shall have similar privileges and franchises as those granted to individual colonists, and as are established in the law for colonization.

In conformity with the law above described, which was approved December 15, 1883, the Department of Public Promotion issued on July 17, 1889, the regulations for the importation of articles belonging to colonists, which are extremely liberal. The law which regu-

## Laws of Special Interest to Foreigners

lates the issuance of letters-patent for inventions was approved on June 7, 1890, and amended on June 2, 1896.

Under said law any Mexican or foreigner, who is an inventor or improver of any industry or art or objects destined therefor, may obtain a patent, which may be granted for twenty years, but if the articles or processes patented are already protected by foreign patents, the term of its duration cannot exceed what may be wanting for the expiration of the first patent issued in favor of the petitioner. The term of the patent may be extended for five years at the discretion of the Executive. An invention or improvement cannot be considered new under the law, if in Mexico or abroad, and prior to the petition for the patent, it may have received sufficient publicity, unless such publicity has been made by a foreign authority empowered to issue patents or the invention or improvement has been presented in expositions held in Mexico, or abroad. Inventions or improvements whose working shall be contrary to the laws forbidding them or to public security and scientific principles or discoveries of a merely speculative power, or that cannot be put into practice by means of a machine, apparatus, instruments, mechanical or chemical proceedings of a practical industrial character, shall not be patentable.

The right of petitioning for a patent on objects or processes that may be protected by foreign patents can only be granted to the inventors or improvers or to their legitimate representatives. Appropriation of patents for the public good may be made under certain circumstances stated in the law, but always upon payment of a fair indemnity.

In order to obtain a patent, application must be made therefor in due form to the Department of Public Promotion. The first applicant shall have in his favor the presumption of being the first inventor, and moreover enjoys the right of possession.

Inventors, whether citizens or foreigners, who are unable to apply personally to the Department of Public Promotion, may appoint attorneys-in-fact to act for them, both in obtaining the patent and in law suits and other matters relative thereto. Citizens and foreigners residing in the Republic may appoint an attorney-in-fact by a common letter of authorization, but those residing abroad must grant a regular power of attorney duly registered.

The petitions for the granting of letters patent shall be published in the Official Journal of the Federal Government, during a period of two months, and at intervals of ten days, and during that period interference proceedings may be instituted by any one with a view to prevent the granting of the patent, but after said period has elapsed no proceedings of interference will be allowed. These proceedings can only be instituted on the ground that the alleged invention or improvement is not properly patentable under the provisions of the law, or that such invention or improvement had been taken from de-

## A Few Facts About Mexico

scriptions, drawings, models, devices, apparatuses, or methods invented by another, or from processes already reduced to practice by another, or, in general, on the ground that the applicant is not the original inventor or his legitimate assignee. If two or more persons claim the same invention, the first inventor shall be entitled to the patent, but if priority of invention cannot be determined the patent shall be granted to the first petitioner.

If interference proceedings be instituted, the Department of Public Promotion summons the parties and endeavors to reconcile their conflicting claims, but if this is not obtained, the Department suspends all further executive proceedings and transmits all the proofs in the case to the proper judicial authority, and then the party instituting the proceedings is allowed two months to make good his action in court, but if he fail to do so within that time his claim shall be disallowed.

At the expiration of the period of two months already mentioned and after the due payment of the Government tax, the letters patent shall be issued, provided others covering the same invention shall not have been previously granted by the Department of Public Promotion. Letters patent shall require the payment of a fee amounting to from fifty to one hundred dollars payable in Mexican dollars or in bonds of the National Consolidated debt, and in case of an extension a new fee shall be paid.

The owner of a patent must prove to the satisfaction of the Department of Public Promotion at the end of each five years of the life of a patent, in order to preserve it for another like period, that he has made to the General Treasury of the Federation at the end of the first five years a payment of \$50, at the end of ten years a payment of \$75, and at the expiration of fifteen years a payment of \$100; and the term within which these payments must be proven will be two months next succeeding the expiration of the five years' period, and cannot be extended.

Proceedings may be instituted to declare the nullity or lapse of patents in conformity with the law, and the determination of nullity and lapse produce the effect of subjecting the inventions or improvements to the use thereof by the public in general.

The ownership in letters patent may be assigned by any of the means established by law with regard to private property, but no act of assignment or any other that implies the modification of the right of property, shall be prejudicial to the rights of third parties, if the same shall not be recorded in the office of the Department of Public Promotion.

The trade-mark law of Mexico was passed November 28, 1889, and amended in one particular only, on December 17, 1897.

It provides that any proprietor of a trade-mark, whether a citizen or a foreigner, residing in Mexico or abroad, may acquire the ex-



Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition

Forestry Exhibit  
Forestry Building





## Laws of Special Interest to Foreigners

clusive right to the use of the same in the Republic, subject to the provisions of the law, but the protection granted includes only articles manufactured or sold in Mexico.

In order to acquire the exclusive ownership of a trade mark, the party concerned will apply personally, or by means of a representative, to the Department of Public Promotion, stating that he reserves his rights. The application should state the name of the factory, its location, the residence of the owner, and the kind of trade or industry in which the applicant desires to employ the trade mark, and must be accompanied by the following documents: A power of attorney, granted to the attorney-in-fact, in case the party concerned does not appear in person; two copies of the trade mark or of an engraved or photographic reproduction thereof; and in case that the trade mark is in intaglio or in relief on the articles manufactured, or has some other peculiarity, two separate sheets will also be forwarded on which these details will appear, either by means of one or more drawings or a written description.

The person who may have first made legal use of a trade mark is the only one who can apply to acquire ownership thereof, and in case of a contest between two owners of the same mark, the ownership will rest in the first possession, or in case possession cannot be proven, in the first applicant.

A trade mark owned by a foreigner not residing in the Republic, cannot be registered therein, unless previously and regularly registered abroad.

Trade marks may only be transferred with the establishments for whose manufacture of trade they serve as a distinctive device; the transfer, however, is not subject to any special formality and will be carried into effect according to the ordinary provisions of law. The duration of the ownership of a trade mark is indefinite, but the right will be considered as abandoned by the closing or failure to produce, for more than a year, of the establishment, factory or business employing the same.

It may be not amiss to make reference in this chapter to a law which was approved on December 14, 1898, which is of interest to investors of new enterprises in the Mexican Republic. By virtue of that law the Executive is authorized, for the term of five years, reckoned from the date of its promulgation, to enter into contracts granting franchises and concessions, without prejudice to third parties, to enterprises that shall guarantee the investment and development of new industries, subject to the following condition:

I. The term of the franchise and concessions to be, from five to ten years, according to the importance of the industry and the amount of capital invested therein.

II. The minimum capital to be invested in the establishment and exploitation of an industry shall be one hundred thousand dollars (Mexican currency), and shall apply to the minimum franchise.

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III. The said industry shall be exempt from all direct federal taxes during the full term of the contract, excepting revenue stamps.

IV. The concessionaires may import, once only, free of customs duties, such machinery, apparatus, tools, and building materials, as may be necessary to establish the industry and the erection of buildings, after inspection by the Department of Public Promotion, and the execution of a bond in every case of introduction to be cancelled as soon as the machinery is erected, and the use to which the apparatus or material is to be put, is proven.

V. The said concessionaires to guarantee the performance of their contracts by a deposit in securities of the public debt to be determined by the Department of Public Promotion, which shall be made upon the signing of the contract.

VI. The concessionaires to defray the cost of the stamps to be affixed to the contract upon signing said document.

And finally, the importation privileges granted under said law are to be regulated by the Departments of the Treasury and of Public Promotion.

It may be stated that by virtue of the law above described several important concessions have been granted by the Mexican government, and thereby various new and valuable enterprises have been established in the Republic.

## XIV

# Mexico at Other Expositions

The first international exposition in which Mexico took part in an official manner may be stated to be the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition, held in 1876, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the independence of the United States. Although the public treasury was not at the time in a flourishing condition and the country was part of the time in a state of political perturbation, the Mexican exhibits were greatly admired and the press published favorable criticisms regarding them, while the number of premiums obtained were commensurate with the importance and extent of the Mexican department.

The Cotton Centennial held at the City of New Orleans towards the end of 1884 and beginning of 1885, was the next international exposition in which Mexico took a prominent part. The Commissioner-General was General Porfirio Diaz, now President of the Republic, and he labored with great zeal to make the Mexican department a great success. The Mexican exhibit then occupied spaces in the Main Building, in the Gallery of Fine Arts, in the Agricultural Building, and in the Women's Building. Besides, Mexico erected a beautiful iron and glass octagonal pavilion, wherein her mineral exhibit was placed, and a large rectangular building which contained the barracks for the fine band and the military contingent sent by the government. It was the unanimous opinion of the press that Mexico was the foreign nation best and most brilliantly represented at that exposition.

The next occasion when the Mexican Republic made a most creditable showing at an international exhibition, was at the one held in Paris in 1889. There the whole exhibit was presented in a building erected for the purpose, seventy meters long by thirty meters wide, and constructed in imitation of the most correct style of Aztec architecture. This building was inaugurated on June 22, 1889, and was constantly thronged by visitors until the end of the exposition. It was the first time that a Mexican exhibit had been seen at an international exhibition held in Europe, and therefore the articles presented aroused the attention of all visitors. The large number of premiums obtained by Mexican exhibitors plainly demonstrated that the work of the Government in collecting and presenting the exhibit was properly appreciated.

The large and varied display made by Mexico of her natural products and manufactures at the World's Fair, held in Chicago in 1893, now claims our attention. That international exposition, so grand in

## A Few Facts About Mexico

its conception and execution, aroused a friendly rivalry among all nations, and every one of them endeavored to be seen at its best near the shores of Lake Michigan. Mexico there appeared, showing her vast resources and possibilities, and although it did not have a building of its own, her exhibits could be seen in the following buildings: Agricultural, Fisheries, Manufactures and Liberal Arts, Leather, Mines, Ethnology, Forestry, Woman's, Machinery, Transportation, Horticulture and Viticulture, and Fine Arts. In all a full and complete exhibit was made, and therefore it was nothing but just that the Mexican exhibitors should obtain, as they did, a very large number of premiums.

After the World's Fair, Mexico has taken part at expositions held at Atlanta, Nashville, Omaha, and San Antonio, Texas, where in a more limited scale than in the larger and more important expositions, her exhibits have been creditable and well deserving of praise.

The participation of Mexico in the International Exposition, recently held at Paris in 1900, deserved the praises of all. The elegant building which the Mexican government erected at the capital of France was full of products and manufactures tastefully arranged, and which showed the state of advancement of the country and its great elements of wealth. At that exposition, Mexico obtained thirty-three grand premiums, one hundred and fourteen gold medals, two hundred and forty-two silver medals, three hundred and forty-two bronze medals, and three hundred and fifty-seven honoray mentions. These satisfactory results fully and justly compensated for the painstaking efforts of the able commissioners who had charge of the exhibits and for the expenses incurred and well directed measures taken by the Department of Public Promotion of Mexico on that behalf.

## XV

# Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition

Mexico could do not less than take an important part in an exposition, such as is the Pan-American at Buffalo, wherein all the countries of America are invited to show the state of advancement of this Continent at the beginning of the twentieth century. As soon as the Government was officially invited to participate in the exhibition, the former Secretary of Public Promotion, Senor Manuel Fernandez Leal, issued the necessary orders for the collection and preparation of the exhibits to be sent to Buffalo. President Porfirio Diaz, not only determined that the Mexican department should be in keeping with the importance of the exposition, but in order to show the interest he took therein, he determined that a military band and a military contingent should also take part at the opening of the exposition, and remain for some time thereafter at Buffalo. His resolution in that regard was cheerfully seconded by the efficient Secretary of War, General Bernardo Reyes; and thus it was that for about a period of two months the First Artillery Band, under the leadership of Captain Ricardo Pacheco, and a military contingent of the Mexican Army under the command of Captain Samuel Garcia Cuellar took part in the festivities and exercises held on various occasions at the Pan-American Exposition.

But let us state events in the order in which they happened. Soon after the new Secretary of Public Promotion, Senor Leandro Fernandez, entered into the performance of the duties of his office, he sent to Buffalo, Mr. Albino R. Nuncio, Chief of the Second Bureau of the Department, in order to receive the spaces that had been set apart for the exhibits of Mexico in the leading exposition buildings. Upon the report made by Mr. Nuncio and it being apparent that sufficient space was not granted to Mexico for her mineral exhibit, it was determined that a building should be erected on the exposition grounds, to contain the mining exhibit and serve as an office to the Mexican Commission. Afterwards, it was decided that the display of Liberal, Graphic, and Fine Arts, should also be placed in said building.

The Commission appointed by the Mexican government to represent it at the Pan-American Exposition was constituted as follows:

Albino R. Nuncio, Mechanical Engineer, Chief of the Commission.

Maximiliano M. Chabert, Secretary of the Commission and Chief of Divisions XIV, XV, and XVIII.

Lauro Viadas, Agronomical Engineer, Chief of Divisions I, III, and IV.

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Jesus M. Nuncio, Chief of Pomology and Viticulture, Division V.

Alberto McDowell, Chief of Floriculture, Division VI.

Juan de D. Fleury, Mining Engineer, Chief of Divisions VIII and X.

Carlos Sellerier, Mining Engineer, Chief of Divisions XI and XIII.

Enrique H. Garibay, Chief of Division VI.

Rosendo Sandoval, Assayer, Chief of Division XVI.

Antonio M. Maya, Second Chief of Division XVI.

Later on, the Department of War sent an honorary commission to the exposition, headed by Mr. Enrique Mondragon, Lieutenant Colonel of the Engineers' Corps of the Mexican Army, and he was assigned as Honorary Chief of Division XII.

Owing to strikes, the inclemency of the weather and other circumstances, delays occurred which prevented the full installation of exhibits in all the leading buildings of the exposition, and likewise in the opening of the pavillions erected by the foreign nations and states of the American Union. However, Mexico was one of the first countries to have her installations ready and to open her official building. The formal dedication took place on June 14, 1901, in the presence of the Secretary of State, Hon. John Hay, the Mexican Ambassador, Hon. Manuel de Azpiroz, the Lieutenant General of the Army of the United States, Nelson A. Miles, the President of the Exposition, Hon. John G. Milburn, the Director-General of the Exposition, Hon. William I. Buchanan, the chiefs of the foreign and state commissions and other prominent persons; the ceremonies of inauguration likewise consisting of a review of the Mexican troops sojourning at the exposition, and of a banquet given by the commission in honor of the Mexican Ambassador. Full detail of these ceremonies, as well as of the Mexican exhibits, may be found in the various articles published on the subject by the leading newspapers of this country, whose kind and well-written notices have done so much to make known and popularize the exhibits of the Mexican Republic. Some of said notices are reproduced in the appendix herein.

The display made by Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition is as follows:

In the Mexican Building, 60x40 feet, two stories high, Mining, Liberal Arts, Fine Arts, and Graphic Arts.

In the Agricultural Building, Mexico occupies about 2000 square feet.

In the Forestry Building, about 1,000 square feet.

In the Horticulture Building, and outside in the garden, about 6,000 square feet.

In the Manufactures Building, it has about 3,000 square feet.

In the Ethnology Building, it occupies about 2,000 square feet.

The number of Mexican exhibitors is as follows:

Division I. Agricultural and Dairy Products. 137.

Division III. Live Stock. 2.



**General View of Ethnology Exhibit**  
**Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition**  
**Ethnology Building**





## Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition

Division IV. Foods and their Accessories. 135.

Division V. Horticulture, Pomology, Floriculture, and Viticulture. 88.

Division VI. Forestry. 59.

Division VIII. Mines and Metallurgy. 119.

Division X. Electricity and Electric Appliances. 9.

Division XI. Transportation. 5.

Division XII. Ordnance and Munitions of War. 3.

Division XIII. Manufactures. 144.

Division XIV. Graphic Arts. 10.

Division XV. Liberal Arts. 109.

Division XVI. Ethnology. 11.

Division XVII. Fine Arts. 10.

About the 22nd of July, 1901, the juries which were to give the awards were duly appointed and began their labors. The Chief of the Commission, Mr. Albino R. Nuncio, thereupon became a member of the Superior Jury. In the juries that actually examined and passed upon the merits of all the exhibits, Mexico was represented by the following gentlemen:

Division I. Agriculture. Mr. Jose F. Godoy, First Secretary of the Mexican Embassy at Washington.

Division IV. Foods and their Accessories. Mr. Lauro Viadas, Chief of the Mexican Section of Agriculture.

Division V. Viticulture. Mr. Jesus M. Nuncio, Chief of the Mexican Section of Pomology and Viticulture.

Division VI. Forestry. Mr. Rosendo Sandoval, Chief of the Mexican Section of Ethnology.

Division VIII. Mines and Metallurgy. Mr. Juan de D. Fleury, Chief of the Mexican Section of Mines and Metallurgy.

Division XII. Ordnance and Munitions. Captain Victor Hernandez, of the Mexican Army.

Division XIII. Manufactures. Mr. Carlos Sellerier, Chief of the Mexican Section of Manufactures.

Division XV. Liberal Arts. Mr. Maximiliano M. Chabert, Chief of the Mexican Section of Liberal Arts.

Group 125, Class 115, Division XV. Photographs. Mr. Antonio M. Maya, Second Chief of Division XVI.

Division XVI. Ethnology. Mr. Enrique H. Garibay, Chief of the Mexican Section of Forestry.

Although, officially, no information has been given as to the number of medals and honorary mentions that Mexican exhibitors have received, it is gratifying to know that about sixty per cent of such exhibitors have been given awards.

Finally, we may say, that the Mexican Commission, besides performing the labors of installation and proper presentation of the exhibits, has been giving, and will continue to give, to the public all the

## **A Few Facts About Mexico**

information at its command regarding such exhibits and the resources of the Mexican Republic, and to obtain that end, has distributed periodical publications relative to Mexico, and has issued in pamphlet form, translations of various important laws, a full and complete catalogue of all said exhibits and now publishes this illustrated pamphlet in the hope that the information it contains may prove of some value to the visitors of the Mexican sections at the Pan-American Exposition.

# Appendix

## Mexican Commissioners at the Pan-American Exposition (as published by the Committee on State and Foreign Relations, August, 1901)

Senor Don Albino R. Nuncio, Chief of the Commission.  
Senor Don Maximiliano M. Chabert, Secretary of the Commission.  
Senor Don Jose F. Godoy, Commissioner "ad honorem."  
Senor Don Nicolas Veloz, Jr., Clerk.

### Agriculture

Senor Don Lauro Viadas, Chief.  
Senor Don Valente Alvarez del Castillo, Assistant.  
Senor Don Luis Rosas, Assistant.

### Horticulture

Senor Don Jesus M. Nuncio, Chief.  
Senor Don Benito Navarro, Assistant.

### Forestry

Senor Don Enrique H. Garibay, Chief.  
Senor Don Jose P. Godoy, Jr., Assistant.

### Mines

Senor Don Juan D. Fleury, Chief.  
Senor Don Luis I. Fleury, Assistant.  
Senor Don Julio Viderique, Assistant.

### Manufactures

Senor Don Carlos Sellerier, Chief.  
Senor Don Manuel Costa, Assistant.  
Senor Don Edwin Charles Georger, Assistant.

### Graphic Arts, Liberal Arts, and Fine Arts

Senor Don Maximiliano M. Chabert, Chief.  
Senor Don Jacinto Morales, Assistant.  
Senor Don Amando Gomez, Assistant.  
Senor Don Francisco A. Godoy, Assistant.

### Ethnology

Senor Don Rosendo Sandoval, Chief.  
Senor Don Antonio Maya, Second Chief.  
Senor Don Saulo Navarro, Assistant.  
Senor Don Alberto L. Godoy, Assistant.

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### Women Managers

Senora Laura Smith de Mariscal, Honorary Member of the Board of Women Managers.

Senora Maria Callas de Linmantour, Honorary Member of the Board of Women Managers.

### Mexican Army Representatives

#### Technical Commission

Lieutenant Colonel Don Enrique Mondragon.

Captain Victor Hernandez.

## Comments of the Press

*From Brooklyn Eagle-Times, June 14, 1901*

At the dedication of the Mexican building on the Pan-American grounds yesterday, Hon. Manuel de Azpiroz, Ambassador from Mexico to the United States, said: "Although the world at large does not look upon the Pan-American Exposition as an international fair, it is to us of the three Americas more than an international exposition. It is a gathering of brother countries, where each is trying to do all the good that it can for itself incidentally, but really for the entire western hemisphere."

The spirit of the Pan-American has not been better expressed by anyone since the idea of the fair was conceived. It is especially appropriate that this sentiment should come from the representative of Mexico, which has co-operated so heartily in making the exposition a success. All of the nations on this hemisphere are being brought into closer contact than they ever have been before. We of the United States are learning daily more respect for the people and institutions of neighboring states and they, it is hoped, are gaining more confidence in and admiration for us. A common discovery of one another's good qualities is going on. And there is no nation which has risen to the occasion better than Mexico. This was to have been expected in view of the progressive character of the Mexican Government. We of the United States like to think of our own advancement since the close of the Civil War, but when Mexico, which Juarez started to rebuild after the downfall of Maximilian, is compared with the Mexico of today, the progress of the United States seems slow beside that of our southern neighbor. The building of a nation has been laid deep to make it a great nation.

The commercial relations of Mexico and the United States are already very close; fifty per cent of Mexico's imports are from this country and seventy per cent of her exports come here. Mexico is our best customer on this hemisphere after Canada, and the trade figures approach very close to those with the Dominion. This commerce has been increasing rapidly and it will continue to grow by leaps and bounds as a result of the better acquaintance and increased knowledge of the wants and resources of the two countries which their representatives are gaining by means of this exposition.

## Appendix — Comments of the Press

*From Buffalo Times, June 14, 1901*

Our honored sister republic, Mexico, held the stage at the exposition yesterday with the dignity that is a heritage with the people of Spanish blood and training, and with a pride born of the consciousness of a part well-played and enthusiastically applauded.

The central figures in the ceremonies attending the formal dedication of the fitting structure Mexico has erected in the center of the colony of foreign and state buildings were Hon. Manuel de Azpiroz, the Mexican Ambassador, Senor Albino R. Nuncio, Chief of the Mexican Commission, and his colleagues, together with Capt. Cuellar and his gallant associates representing the Mexican army. The exchange of courtesies and the expression of reciprocal appreciation by the gentlemen from Mexico on the one hand, and the Hon. John Hay, Secretary of State, President Milburn and Director-General Buchanan on the other, gave great pleasure to the large party enjoying the hospitalities of the occasion. The key-note of what His Excellency, the Mexican Ambassador, happily styles the "Gathering of brother countries" was the hope earnestly expressed by all speakers that the exposition would fulfill its true mission in making all the nations and peoples of the Western Hemisphere better known to each other, socially, politically and commercially. "Never has there been an exposition which was born as the result of such an idea," said President Milburn. "It is a good one!" We have not known each other as we should."

After the popular demonstrations of yesterday in honor of the Mexican visitors there can be no question about the immense success of the Mexican contribution to the Pan-American Exposition and of the high esteem in which President Diaz is held by the American people. We hope many Mexicans will think it worth while to visit the exposition this summer. They will find only friends here.

*From Buffalo Courier, June 15, 1901*

The dedication of the Mexican Building at the exposition, which took place yesterday morning, was made a notable ceremony by the prominence of the participants. The neighboring Republic of Mexico was not only represented by its official commissioners to the Pan-American, but by the Mexican Ambassador at Washington, Don Manuel Azpiroz, a veteran Mexican statesman; by Jose F. Godoy, First Secretary of Legation, and by several army officers, beside the Mexican soldiery and the excellent military band. The Ambassador made a happy address in Spanish, which was responded to felicitously by Secretary John Hay. It was a pleasant chance that brought the Secretary of State to the exposition at the time of the dedication of this building, and our southern friends will undoubtedly be gratified by the attendance of the commanding general of our army. Mexico has taken more complete advantage of the opportunities offered by the Pan-American than any other country except our own. Mexican exhibits will be found in nearly every building, all of a high order of excellence and all attractively arranged. While President Diaz is not likely to attend, because of advancing age and ill health, he has shown his appreciation of the objects of the exposition in many ways.

## A Few Facts About Mexico

*From Buffalo Express, June 15, 1901*

A dignity and fine courtesy marked the ceremonies of the opening of Mexico's building at the exposition at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. The building is in the center of the group of foreign buildings east of the Triumphal Causeway and south of the Government Building. It is an attractive building tastefully decorated, with its exhibits arranged to excellent advantage. President Milburn, Secretary of State Hay, the Mexican Ambassador, Director-General Buchanan, and Mayor Diehl spoke, Senor Nuncio presiding. A banquet and a review of the Mexican troops followed.

The entire Mexican contingent met the Ambassador and escorted him into the grounds. Color bearers rode ahead bearing the flags of the United States and Mexico. Then came a trumpeter and then Capt. Cuellar mounted on a prancing horse. Next came Capt. Ricardo Pacheco and his Rurales. It was a gorgeous, picturesque procession. The Mexican Commission escorted the Mexican Ambassador. All wore high hats and frock suits. At the entrance to the building they met President Milburn, Treasurer Williams, Chairman Scatcherd, and the other guests of honor and all entered together, two by two.

The specially invited guests were Hon. Manuel de Azpiroz, Ambassador to the United States from Mexico; John Hay, Secretary of State; Gen. Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A.; Jose F. Godoy, First Secretary to the Mexican Embassy; President John G. Milburn of the Pan-American Exposition Company; Director-General Buchanan, John N. Scatcherd, Secretary Fleming, and Mayor Diehl. They were received by the members of the National Commission from the United States of Mexico to the Pan-American, as follows: Senor Albino R. Nuncio, chief of commission; Maximiliano M. Chabert, secretary to the commission; Lauro Viadas, chief of agricultural department; Alberto McDowell, chief of the floriculture section; Enrique H. Garibay, chief of forestry department; Juan de D. Fleury, chief of the manufactures departments; Maximiliano M. Chabert, chief of the various arts; Rosendo Sandoval, chief of the department of ethnology, and the following-named army officers: Lieut. Senor Teniente Enrique, Capt. Victor Hernandez, and Senor Teniente F. Narvaez.

Pacheco's band played during the ceremonies. The concert was one of the finest heard on the grounds and was a triumph for the great Mexican bandmaster. The guests of honor ascended to the broad landing on the stairway in the building. The main floor was filled with distinguished persons, including the commissioners from all countries on the Western Hemisphere. Herbert P. Bissell, Col. W. H. Michael, J. N. Adam, F. Almy and many others were present. Senor Nuncio spoke first.

"It gives us pleasure that you have accepted this invitation," he said. "We tender you a cordial welcome."

Briefly and eloquently, he referred to a task well done, and felicitated the exposition officials on the successful opening of the exposition. He thanked them for many helpful acts, thanked the people for coming to the dedication ceremonies, told them they were always welcome, and invited the representatives of the foreign governments to make their homes in the Mexican Building, which, though small, is large enough to hold a great deal of hospitality. Then he spoke in Spanish receiving great applause for his graceful utterances to the members of the Mexican Commission. He introduced the Mexican Ambassador, Hon. Manuel de Azpiroz, gray-haired, gray-mustached, soft-voiced.

## Appendix — Comments of the Press

The Ambassador spoke in Spanish and was interrupted repeatedly by applause. He turned to the history of the world's progress and eloquently, concisely, graphically, traced it to the present. New ideas in old times were coupled with religion, he said. Every new thought was conceived in the church, as in the days of the present time every long stride in progress is coupled with the exposition. The ambassador traced the history of the various great expositions.

"Although the world at large," he said, "does not look upon the Pan-American Exposition as an international fair, it is to us of the three Americas more than an international exposition. It is a gathering of brother countries, where each is trying to do all the good that it can for itself incidentally, but really for the entire Western Hemisphere.

He referred to the great help that the Pan-American officials had given to the Mexican Commission and enlarged on the hope that the exposition would result not only in bringing the countries of all America closer together, but also would aid in developing trade relations among them. He paid a graceful tribute to President Milburn and to Secretary Hay. One paragraph near the close of his speech was a beautiful expression of sentiment of peace, friendship, and affection between the United States and Mexico. He received prolonged applause when he finished.

Secretary Hay spoke next, briefly and amid great applause.

"My part in this joyful occasion is very simple," said he. "It is merely to express to you my very great pleasure at being here, to extend my congratulations to the Mexican Ambassador, who has done so much during his stay in this country to make pleasant the relations between this country and Mexico, and to express the hope that this occasion and the entire Pan-American Exposition may not only extend our social relations, but may broaden our commercial intercourse, which I know will be greatly to the advantage of both republics."

President Milburn was introduced next and he made a characteristically graceful speech. He said:

"It is occasions like this which give the greatest satisfaction to those who are officially connected with the exposition. The exposition originated in a great idea and that was to make all the nations and peoples of the Western Hemisphere better known to each other, socially, politically, and commercially. Never has there been an exposition which was born as the result of such an idea. It is a good one. We have not known each other as we should. This exposition will have reached its greatest result if it succeeds in promoting closer relations between the countries of the Americas. I ask you, Mr. Ambassador, to extend to the President of Mexico the heartfelt thanks of the Pan-American Exposition officials for the many kindnesses that have been shown us, both by himself, and by his commissioners, through his direction."

In closing, Mr. Milburn said that the exposition is indebted to Mexico for its ready acquiescence in the Pan-American idea, and for the building and exhibits it has on the grounds, to the commissioners for the hearty way in which they joined with the officials, and to the ambassador for his trip to Buffalo, both now and two years ago in the interests of the idea which had fostered the exposition.

Director-General Buchanan then spoke, briefly:

"It is certainly unnecessary," said he, "for me to say that so far as the executive officials of the exposition are concerned, we are all gratified at being here and at the efforts that Mexico has so successfully made for the accomplishment of this great purpose. I ask you,



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Mr. Ambassador, to extend the heartfelt thanks of the Pan-American Exposition officials for the many kindnesses they have shown to us, both by himself and by his commissioners, through his direction."

Senor Nuncio then introduced Mayor Diehl.

"On behalf of the City of Buffalo," said the Mayor, "I heartily congratulate you. The City of Buffalo appreciates what you have done. You were the first country to come into line for the exposition. You are to be congratulated, too, on your beautiful building."

A luncheon followed. It was informal and enjoyed by all. Every woman present during the day received a bunch of carnations. The Mexicans were the embodiment of courtesy and cordiality to all. The great crowd remarked it and was pleased.

At 1 o'clock the ambassador and his party reviewed the Mexican troops on the Esplanade. A big crowd applauded the parade. The Mexicans made a fine showing. Their gay colors, the picturesque yellow charro uniforms and big sombreros of the Rurales, the prancing, bounding mustangs, the splendid band, all receiving great applause. The ambassador naturally was proud of the ovation given his countrymen. To the joy of the thousands the troops paraded around the Promenade to the Plaza. Everywhere they were cheered. A tremendous burst of enthusiasm greeted them when they saluted the American flag. The crowd cheered again and again. It was one of the foremost ovations of the expositions, given with a heartiness and sincerity that betokened the warm friendship existing in this country for Mexico and appreciation of the courtesies of President Diaz to the American people at the exposition.

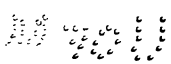
There will be a banquet in the Stadium tonight, which may be considered a part of the dedication celebration.

### *From Buffalo Evening News, June 16, 1901*

The final event in connection with the opening of the Mexican Building at the Pan-American took place last night at 8 o'clock when an elaborate dinner was given in the Stadium restaurant in honor of the Mexican minister, Hon. Manuel de Azpiroz. Over 150 guests sat down with the minister at tables beautifully decorated with floral designs, suggestive of the Central American republic.

Bunting of all Latin-American republics were swung generously from the walls and pillars of the dining room. The Mexican artillery band stationed behind the head table played appropriate selections. An orchestra of string instruments, all Mexican performers, a menu of unmistakable Mexican design, and many Mexican suggestions on the bill of fare, heightened the effect.

The tables were arranged in the conventional fashion, three long tables running from a head table at which sat the minister and the chief of the Mexican Commission, Senor Albino R. Nuncio, under whose direction the building and installation of the Mexican exhibit were accomplished. The director-general of the exposition and the distinguished members of the exposition board were at the table also and seated around the board were the heads of the departments of the exposition and many prominent exhibitors. The employees of the Mexican Commission were provided for also, many of them occupying seats at the table, and after the dinner the band and all the Mexican soldiery now quartered in the Stadium had a jollification and a dinner which they will not soon forget.



## Appendix—Comments of the Press

The list of guests at the banquet is as follows:

Senor Hon. Manuel de Azpiroz, Mexican Ambassador; Senor Albino R. Nuncio, chief of Mexican Commission; Senor Lauro Viadas, commissioner for division of agriculture; Senor Carlos Sellerier, commissioner for division of manufactures; Senor Rosendo Sandoval, commissioner for division of ethnology; Senor Jesus M. Nuncio, commissioner for division of horticulture; Senor Alberto McDowell, commissioner for division of floriculture; Senor Enrique H. Garibay, commissioner for division of forestry; Senor Juan de D. Fleury, commissioner for division of mines; Senor Maximiliano M. Chabert, commissioner for division of fine arts; Senor Valente Alvarez del Castillo, Senor M. Rosas, Senor Manuel Costa, Senor E. Georger, Senor Benito Navarro, Senor Luis J. Fleury, Senor Jacinto Morales, Senor Amado Gomez, Senor Nicolas Veloz, assistants; Senor Antonio Maya, second commissioner for ethnology; Senor Julio Viderique, assistant; Senor Teniente F. Narvaez, Senor Capt. Samuel Garcia Cuellar, Senor Capt. J. M. Tello, Senor Capt. Inocencio Martin, Senor Lic. Jose F. Godoy, First Secretary of the Mexican Embassy; Senor Antonio Rivera de la Torre, reporter for El Imparcial, City of Mexico.

Senor I. D. Montesinos, reporter for El Universal, City of Mexico; Senor Abelardo Quiroga, Senor Jorge Nelken y Waldberg, Senor M. Hadida, Senor Enrique Budge, Chile; Senor Ernesto Tomas, Chile; Senor Elliott Rourge, Chile; Senor Julio Perez Canto, Chile; Senor Enrique Lanz, Chile; Senor Guillermo Fredumberg, Chile; Senor Carlos Silva Cruz, Chile; Senor Teodoro Schneider, Chile; Senor Gen. Nicanor Bolet Peraza, Honduras; Senor Francisco Altshul, Senor Ernesto Shernikow, El Salvador; Senor George W. Fishbach, Porto Rico; Senor Floreciel A. Rojas, Dominican Republic; Senor Charles Garcia Cross, Chile.

Among the American guests were Mayor Conrad Diehl, Director-General W. I. Buchanan, John N. Scatcherd, Charles R. Huntley, Edwin Fleming, Herbert P. Bissell, Dr. D. R. Day, T. Guilford Smith, Frederic W. Taylor, Harry Hamlin, H. Montgomery Gerrans, George Bleistein, Dr. A. L. Benedict, George W. Ames, Frank A. Converse, Algar M. Wheeler, Francis Almy, Maj. T. W. Symons, Col. William H. Michaels, Mark Bennitt, Col. John B. Weber, R. R. Hefford, Lieut. Godfrey L. Carden, Henry Wendt, Hal. W. Smith, William C. Cornwell, H. D. Follinsbee, S. W. Mason, E. R. Rice, G. B. Rich, Wallace H. Hill, Barclay Chadwick, Julius N. Gregor, W. V. Cox, J. B. Brownlee, J. H. Brigham, and George P. Mason.

At the close of the banquet Senor Nuncio introduced Senor Bermudez, who spoke in Spanish and whose remarks were vigorously applauded. Director-General Buchanan translated the speech and disclosed that it breathed patriotism and good fellowship between the United States and Mexico. Ambassador Azpiroz spoke in the same strain. John N. Scatcherd followed with a tribute to Mexico, and Senor A. Rivera de la Torre eulogized the United States and Mexico.

*From N. Y. Tribune, June 16, 1901*

This evening in the Stadium restaurant the Mexican Commissioners gave a banquet in honor of Ambassador Manuel de Azpiroz, and also in celebration of the opening of the Mexican Building. The occasion will be recalled with pleasure by those who attended, because of its interest and brilliancy. A special train conveyed the guests from the Terrace station in the business part of the city.

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The speechmaking began at 8:30 o'clock, and the exercises were not over until nearly midnight. The occasion was one to cement the bonds of friendship between North American and South American business and public men, and was in line with the ambition of the promoters of the exposition to this end.

All the principal Spanish speaking visitors were present, and expressed themselves as highly delighted. The general sentiment was that a few more events of this nature could not fail to remove any slight commercial differences now existing between the countries of the Western Hemisphere. It is said that this line will be followed by the exposition officials as often as possible, so that the people of the south which lies beyond the Gulf of Mexico may come to know the citizens of the north as their brothers in commerce and progress for this side of the globe.

When the main building for Mexico's exhibit was thrown open to the public yesterday, in spite of the location being far from the main features of the exposition, particularly the Midway, hundreds of visitors found their way to it and were repaid by the fine display of valuables, curiosities, useful articles, and bric-a-brac of all kinds to be seen there. In spite of the apparently bewildering collection, one fact is paramount, and that is that the exhibit is designed to educate, and, because it can do this, it is a revelation of the advancement of Mexico that is surprising to the citizens of the United States, who are made familiar in this way with a country that is making rapid progress in commercial importance.

The building itself is a two-story structure, gayly ornamented and beautifully furnished; rich carpets cover the floors, and rare paintings, many of them prize winners at the Paris Exposition, adorn the walls. An idea of the comprehensiveness of the display is gained when mention is made that ten thousand specimens of minerals and metals alone are on view. Groups illustrating graphic, liberal and fine arts and mining are arranged in a tasteful manner, and polite attendants look after the comforts and demands of the visitors, who are welcomed with true Mexican hospitality.

The mineral display attracts the eyes of the city dwellers. The exhibits of silver ores are unusually fine, and the silver particles often are so large that the precious metal could be removed by merely breaking the ore with a hammer.

The fauna of the country have not been overlooked, and there are mounted specimens of beasts that are rare even in Mexico. One specimen holds attention by its lifelike attitude. It is that of a Mexican puma of extraordinary size, and its ferocity must have equaled that of a tiger, while its strength could not have been far inferior, as its size is almost as great.

Some of the finest specimens are among the mounted birds, which include everything from the little humming birds to the gaudy paroquets. There are many birds of paradise, and their various hues excite even the envy of women who would not wear feathers in their hats.

The Mexican Building does not contain all of Mexico's display, immense as it is. An entire section in the Manufactures Building is devoted to exhibits from that country, illustrating its progress in the mechanical arts. Saddles, rich and costly, are shown in all of the different shapes; boots, shoes, furniture and cotton goods are in this section, and attract much attention. In the Agricultural Building there is a big display of coffee, tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes of all kinds. Care is taken to explain the merits of the different products, cost of production, and the advantages the country offers for locating

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there. There also are Mexican displays in the Horticultural Building and the Forestry Building. The display in the former building attracts the men from California and Central New York because of the excellence of the specimens of wine made in Mexico that are shown.

### *From Modern Mexico, September 19, 1901*

Upon crossing from the north half, or Exhibit Division, of the Pan-American Exposition, over the splendid Triumphal Bridge into the section devoted to State and Foreign buildings, one of the foremost features to attract the eye is the imposing pavilion of Mexico. It represents the central figure of a unique architectural group, whose artistic details combine to form one of the most striking features of the magnificent color scheme which has made the Pan-American Exposition so justly famous.

The group in question comprises five buildings, the arrangement and decorative treatment of which call to mind the exquisite details of a variegated Mexican begonia. One of the petals of this gorgeous architectural flower is the quaint, Pagoda-like pavilion of the Dominican Republic, with its curving, rose-tinted roof spreading generously above its cream and azure walls; another, is the superb rubescent edifice of Chile, its ornamental steel sides ablaze; again, in perfect harmony, both as to angle and color effect stretches away the stately and commodious mansion reared by the New England States resplendent in natural brick effects and immaculate Colonial trimmings. Finally, to complete the symmetrical and eminently cosmopolitan setting, there is interested the inviting Queen Anne structure of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, which, with gorgeously hued banners floating above an artistically treated exterior, stands as a herald of the next great World's Fair, at St. Louis, in 1903. And from the heart of this cosmical creation towers the majestic Moorish Palace of the Mexican Republic, its green and gray castellations constituting a fitting central feature of so novel a configuration.

Viewed from the broad avenue on which it fronts, the Mexican pavilion presents the form of a perfect quadrangle the main structure being two stories in height, while at each of the four corners ornamental towers capped by banner staffs arise. In the rear of the building for its entire height is a semicircular well containing the stairways of the structure, above which is a gracefully fashioned dome. The windows throughout the entire structure are of a highly ornamental character, and are further set off by costly moresque panels. Extending for a considerable distance across the main facade, at the height of the second story, is an inviting balcony enclosed by an ornate triple archway and carved balustrade. Immediately beneath this is the principal entrance to the building, enclosed by an engaged colonnade on the entablature of which, in carved letters, is the name "Mexico," and above it the emblem of the Republic, a sculptured eagle perched on a cactus branch and holding a serpent in its beak and talons.

When President Diaz, on behalf of his Government, accepted the invitation to participate in the Pan-American Exposition, he chose as his Commissioner-General for the occasion, a man who, by his past achievements in kindred lines of work, had proved himself, more than any other citizen of the Republic, pre-eminently fitted for the duty. That distinguished personage was Senor Don Albino R. Nuncio, one

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of the most progressive and widely known exponents of expositions on this continent. The wisdom of President Diaz's choice in this connection is today manifested in the fact that Mexico has by far the largest and most creditable exhibit of all the foreign countries represented at the Pan-American Exposition. And when the truly superb exhibits of many of her sister nations are considered, such pre-eminence is indeed significant.

Even before the main building is entered, one of the principal resources of the Republic is brought to notice by the large pyramids of silver and copper ore and virgin coal specimens which guard the approach on either hand. Immediately within the entrance and occupying nearly the entire lower floor is the mining exhibit, superintended by Senor Don Juan D. Fleury. This display is remarkable for its richness and variety, the specimens on exhibition representing every species of the finer and baser metals and ores known to the mineral kingdom. Nearly every State in the Republic has contributed something to this interesting department, some of the most notable specimens being copper from the vast deposits in Baja California, gold from the famed ledges of Sonora, silver from the historic lodes of Zacatecas and onyx from the rich quarries of Puebla. In addition to the mining exhibits, a number of highly ingenious scientific instruments are shown on the first floor. The most interesting of these is the Mexican seismograph, a curious triangular-shaped apparatus employed as an indicator of the seismic motions in cases of earthquake.

A commendable detail in the interior arrangement of the main building is the clever manner in which space has been economized. Every inch of both wall and floor space has been utilized for exhibition purposes in one form or another. For example, the master pieces in sculptured marble and on cleverly wrought canvases, representing the Fine Arts, and the superb specimens in photography and kindred lines comprising the Liberal Arts are strikingly arranged on the large expanse of wall flanking the double stairways. Many hours may be spent in pleasant and profitable contemplation of these truly exquisite art productions of Mexico. The upper floors of the building are most tastefully appointed, both with respect to furniture and decorations, this portion of the structure being devoted largely to reception purposes. But even here some beautiful displays have been made, notably that of the natural history specimens which are made to serve the double purpose of adorning the apartment and showing, through the taxidermist's skill, the products of the country in this particular line. Opening from the upper floor at one side of the reception hall is the private office of Commissioner-General Nuncio, and on the opposite side that of his secretary, Senor Don Maximiliano M. Chabert.

The various other departments comprising the Mexican section are distributed throughout the various exhibit buildings of the Exposition. One of the most interesting and instructive of these is the ethnological display, which has been collected from all over the Republic and appropriately installed by Senor Don Rosendo Sandoval, a scholar of rare attainments in this scientific field. By his wonderful collection of antiquities and ancient literature, Senor Sandoval has succeeded in showing both comprehensively and entertainingly the evolution of the Mexican race down to the present age.

In her Forestry Exhibit, conducted by Senor Don Enrique H. Garibay, Mexico has revealed in herself a marvelous wealth of resource. In all there are some 350 different species of woods displayed, of which no more than seven would be considered as common varieties. And not only are these valuable timber woods shown, but like-

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wise various products of the forest, such as rubber, chewing-gum and other commodities.

The Department of Manufactures, presided over by Senor Don Carlos Sellerier is absorbingly interesting, in that it shows most incontrovertibly the wonderful progress that has been made within recent years by Mexican manufacturers. In this connection there is shown a line of rattan furniture that for beauty and general excellence will bear comparison with the best similar product turned out by any of the leading factories of the world. In addition to this and other varieties of furniture there are displayed an assortment of fabrics, cordage, textiles, native silks, shoes and hats that would reflect credit on the resourcefulness of any nation.

Mexico's agricultural exhibit at the Pan-American Exposition is universally pronounced as the most creditable feature of the entire section. The excellence of the department is in no small measure due to the able management of its director, Senor Don Lauro Viadas. Among other products there are shown some 600 varieties of beans, while the cereal display throughout is proportionately fine. Senor Viadas is particularly proud of his coffee and cocoa exhibit, which he is justly confident will win the highest honors awarded by the Exposition juries. In native fruits and wines the Mexicans can boast of the most unique display in the entire horticultural section. A list of the various products shown in this department and submitted by its director, Senor Don Jesus M. Nuncio, a brother of Commissioner-General Nuncio, embraces upwards of 100 varieties of fruits and liquors, among which are products rarely, if ever, heard of by any one outside of Mexico. Among other features of this order are a variety of fruits and liquors produced by certain species of cactus, which product vegetates so abundantly throughout Mexico. The cactus display at the Pan-American is in itself a feature of marvelous interest, embracing 125 varieties, ranging from the little-old-man species with its life-like growth of silvery white hair, to the gigantic monarch of the desert, which on its native heath frequently attains a height of over sixty feet. This exhibit, together with the floral display, is under the charge of Senor Don J. A. McDowell, who by the way is every inch a Mexican, notwithstanding his name. Mexico's strong feature in the floral lists at the Exposition is her begonia display. Of this queenly flower she shows some eighty different varieties, while in all she has no less than a thousand of the variegated blossoms of this superb collection which is something never to be forgotten.

JOSE DE OLIVARES.

Buffalo, N. Y., August 20.

### *From Buffalo Courier, August 25, 1901*

President Diaz has evolved his people into a greater nation and when the showing is made of the others, his country has come smiling and gracious, and visitors at the Exposition have been left to judge for themselves the position to which Mexico has been appointed.

It was not an easy task, this work of preparing an exhibit from Mexico. Skilled hands were required to gather from the store of resources the few specimens which could be brought and the completed result must be highly gratifying to its makers.

One of the secrets of the success of President Diaz lies in his power to estimate men and he has come to look about his country and

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learn which of its citizens are the most advanced so that he commands the services of the best men of Mexico.

When the Pan-American exhibits was decided, as when there is work to do, the President saw to it himself that the most competent men in his country should be entrusted with the work. The exhibit is a marvel of perfection and all the credit is due to the commissioners to the Exposition who made it.

These commissioners are all gentlemen, who in their own country hold high positions and rank and, with what has today come to be known as "the true Mexican spirit," have left no stone unturned to make their display one of the finest and as up-to-date as is everything in modern Mexico.

While the commissioners are limited by the trifling space that is at their disposal here, they have gathered together a collection that is no less wonderful than interesting, and followed out it will give the visitors a splendid idea of our neighbors and awaken an interest that will lead to further research and with that comes endless topics of interest.

Mexico has a building of its own in the Court of Foreign Buildings and already it has become one of the most attractive features of the Exposition. It is one of the handsomest structures of its kind on the grounds and furnishes so much of interest and hospitality that it is one of the established resting places on the Exposition grounds.

In the Agricultural Building is another massive display, and in Horticulture, Manufacturing, Liberal Arts and Ethnology, the exhibits are wonderfully attractive and unique.

From these displays we learn that for three hundred and fifty years Mexico has been rich, even if most of that time wealth has been the unstable product of mines. No country in the world has the mining history that is woven into old Mexico, and who shall blame it if for years in the past her people devoted themselves to reaching their hands into the pockets of the earth's wealth and taking out the riches that lay beneath the soil? Everyone familiar with mining countries knows the life is kaleidoscopic in its contrasts; that crazy luxury moves beside great misery; that few are rich and the many poor; that all other standards than wealth are lost; that looseness ever accompanies any form of gambling. The life of a mining camp glitters and fascinates but it imbues no patriotism, no higher ideals, no nobler people.

The wise mind of President Diaz saw this, while the pages of Mexican history were covered with examples and under his regime mines have become a secondary consideration, although conservative estimates declare that not ten per cent of the mineral wealth of the country has been exploited.

From the Exposition display we learn that the mines are not failing, but that other industries are growing up alongside them which furnish more copious returns and more stable offerings than ever the pockets of the richest mines.

"All that glitters is not gold" goes an old saw, and President Diaz knew that neither did all that was gold show a glittering surface and he saw in the hundreds of other industries for which his country was fitted, surface gold that needed but the hands of miners to wash out the pure metal and he taught his people to pluck the fruits of plenty along these many lines.

Commerce, growing through new and costly harbors and speeding over transcontinental railways; the product of swiftly multiplying manufactories; the development of agriculture and other industries have come to be safer bonanzas than the mines and are engaging alike

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the attention of Mexicans and foreigners who are flocking to the land to invest their capital.

In the agricultural exhibit we learn that cereals have always been a heavy factor in the output of the country and the splendid specimens there shown tell a story of remarkable interest. Corn has ever been one of the chief products of the Western Hemisphere whence it was given to the Old World by the Spanish conquest and it is still a leader among the agricultural products of Mexico.

Wheat, according to tradition, was first introduced into this continent in Mexico in 1530, and it has developed from that start into its present exalted position among the cereals. In Mexico, its western foster mother, it is a vast source of the country's wealth and grows especially fine under the benign influence of the climate. Fivefold production is the European return from wheat, while in Mexico it multiplies from twenty to one hundredfold. The mean average of productiveness in Mexico, according to well-posted writers, is five times that of fertile France.

Every vegetable of the Temperate Zone we find among Mexico's offerings and as we follow on we are led through the products of the warmer climates until we come to the rarest specimens of tropical growths and then we come to realize the tremendous advantage which the country has in the way of agricultural resources.

Within the broad expanse of her territory she raises every article of agriculture, thus providing for her own wants independently of the elect of the world. Thus she has but to turn her hand to raising those things which are indigenous to her climate and which must be purchased by other people.

Cochineal is a stable source of foreign gold, and coffee has become one of the greatest revenue producers.

We, with all our wealth, must look to other climes and different countries for our supply of certain food products, and while we are looking, Mexico comes from over the border waving anything that we may want and offering to sell.

Coffee at present is one of the most promising crops that is being raised in Mexico and for several years the output has been doubling. Even the United States is now using something like fifty million pounds of coffee from the vast fields of Mexico and we, with our discriminating tastes, have come to know that Mexican coffee bears comparison with any in the world and that it is already cutting into the markets of other producing countries.

Again we see that our neighbor favors us with another of our national beverages, for the chocolate industry of Mexico has always been a great component part in the output of the country. Today it is reaching undreamed heights and with the increasing demand for so staple an article has come the development of the thousands of miles of land which is perfectly adapted to raising cocoa. At present no great attention is paid to this important crop so that its real greatness lies in the future and the same may be said of the vanilla industry, which at present is confined almost entirely to Vera Cruz and Oaxaca.

From a financial viewpoint, one of the most important crops of Mexico, we learn at the Exposition, is tobacco, and that, too, is almost a mere infant in arms, awaiting only care and growth to become a man in the commerce of the world.

Tobaccos of the finest quality are raised in Mexico, together with medium and lesser types, so that within the scope of her product are produced the various plants that lend themselves to the uses of the thousands of different tastes that are found among tobacco users.



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The rubber industry, which each year is becoming more important as the demand increases and the visible supply decreases is as yet in an embryonic state. Now there are less than five plantations of over 5,000 trees, but there are millions of acres of land which is adapted by nature to the culture of the rubber trees and as the product of these lands is becoming more and more accessible as the transportation facilities are developed, the growing of rubber bids fair to become an ever greater industry in Mexico.

In fruits, broadly speaking, every variety grows in Mexico, although, in reality, little fruit has ever been cultivated, instead of growing naturally. When cultivation is carried to its heights, as is now being rapidly done, there is no doubt that for variety, quality and quantity Mexico will hold first place as a fruit raising country among the nations of the world.

The precious woods that abound on hillside and forest throughout the whole country include the rarest varieties and types of lumber, while the other forest products are simply astounding in their variety and quantity.

In several sections already the industry of growing silk is being developed and sufficient headway has been had to prove that it lacks but the efforts of energetic people to make the growing of silk a source of great revenue to thousands of people.

Rice and cane sugar are also two of the world's most famous and staple food supplies and in the culture of these commodities, Mexico is far advanced, yet doing but a trifle of what her natural endowments entitle her to do.

In speaking of Mexico and her agricultural resources, a well-known writer, who had spent years investigating his subject, sums up the situation in the following graphic style: "Between the marvelous climatic range from tierra caliente to tierra fria, Mexico can produce, and commercially, not alone every article that she needs herself but, as Humboldt justly observed, 'Every crop known to the civilized world.'

"Despite its latitude, two thirds of its land belongs to the temperate zone and only one third to the tropics. Setting aside the longest mountains system on earth, its head touches the eternal snows while its feet dabble in seas of everlasting summer."

But these are only a few things that one learns in viewing the display of Mexico at the Pan-American Exposition, nor by any means do they tell in detail the mighty resources of the country.

For everywhere about the Mexican exhibit are revealed other stories of other features that go to make up the whole of the country; in the one place dealing of horticulture and in the other of manufacturing and mining and liberal arts.

This wonderful supply of things necessary for the sustenance of life which is within her borders has brought the nation to where it needs not look to other places for food and giving the people an opportunity to turn their attention to supplying their wants in other lines.

When the financial upheaval of the seventies and early eighties shook almost the entire world, Mexico stood upon the silver basis which then was being hurled from its place in every clime.

Its country was just then coming under the hand of President Diaz and everything was chaotic; yet from out of the many troubles that shook older nations to their very foundation Mexico was carried through to safety and to a safety that stands peculiarly alone among the governments of the world.

